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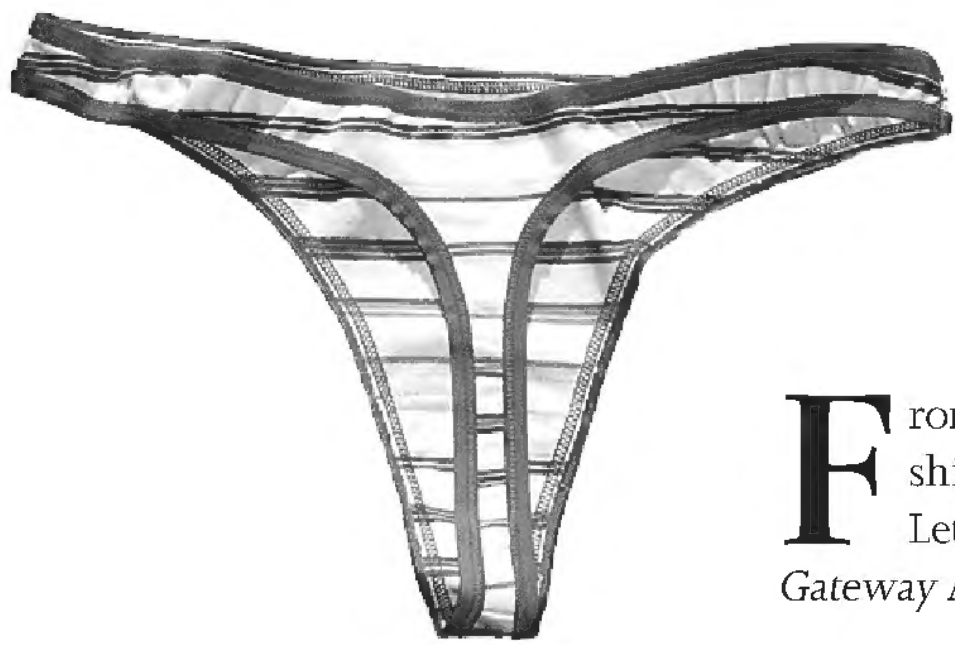
# *the best of* *gatewayphotography* 2006







# 2006's best and worst moments in entertainment



From invigorating speeches to shitty rhymes, 2006 had it all. Let's see what the illustrious Gateway A&E writers had to say:

## Elizabeth Vail

### BEST: CELEBRITIES BANISHED TO THE DOGHOUSE

Although 2006 was the year of the dog, the best 2006 moments came when a pair of down-on-their-luck divas got rid of theirs. First, Whitney Houston realized her love for abusive hubby Bobby Brown was *not* the greatest love of all and kicked him to the curb. Following that, Britney Spears did it one more time and divorced professional hobo and Vanilla Ice protégé Kevin Federline, informing him of their split with a humiliating text-message. Free at last, Whitney's looked healthier than she has in years and Britney's already working on a new album.

### WORST: SERIOUS LACK OF PANTIES

What kind of guilty pleasure would Britney be if she wasn't part of the best and worst moments of 2006? Following the dubious trend set by the rapidly-degenerating Lindsey Lohan and ho for sho' Paris Hilton, Britney Spears recovered from her successful divorce by taking a spread-eagled leap onto the no-panties bandwagon. As faithful paparazzi have discovered, Britney, Lindsey and Paris have apparently lost the ability to get out of a car, dance at a club or walk in a high wind without inadvertently baring their secret gardens (or in Paris' case, her public recreational facility) to the world. We know you've got kids, Britney; there's no

need to show everyone where they came from.

## Kristina De Guzman

### BEST: GUIDING LIGHT WINS FOUR ACTING AWARDS AT THE DAYTIME EMMYS

A woman leaves a revealing message of loneliness on an answering machine. A young man hacks off his hair with a switchblade in front of his mother. Another man, after 15 years of sobriety, falls off the wagon. A woman in a mid-life crisis selfishly laments over no longer being the center of attention.

These scenarios won a handful of Daytime Emmys for television's oldest show. Actors Gina Tognoni, Tom Pelphrey, Jordan Clarke and Kim Zimmer won four of the six acting awards—for Supporting Actress, Younger Actor, Supporting Actor and Lead Actress respectively. Amidst low ratings and budget cuts, *Guiding Light's* acting has remained consistently good, so the acknowledgement was a nice surprise and more than well-deserved.

### WORST: GUIDING LIGHT COMES UP WITH THE LAMEST CURE FOR CANCER

Love! Menopause wasn't enough for Kim Zimmer's Reva Shayne in 2005; she had to get terminal breast cancer the year after. She's become indestructible, and not in a good way. The best part of the story is when Reva dies. Not because she became one of the most annoying characters on TV during her sickness (long story) but because her death seemed so final and left viewers wondering if the actress

had secretly quit the show. Sadly, that lasts a whole two minutes before Reva's ex-husband asks her to come back to him. Just as her heart starts beating, I roll my eyes in response to this illogical drivel.

## Maria Kotovych

### BEST: SPELLING BEES BRINGING SEXY BACK

In June, Finola Hackett achieved an amazing second place in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC. Hackett, 14, hails from Tofield, Alberta, and she was the only Canadian in the finals of the prestigious spelling bee.

Hackett conducted herself with incredible grace and maturity during and after the event. Unfortunately, the word that cost Hackett the top prize was *weltschmerz*, a German word that means "sadness over the evils of the world."

Hackett, as well as movies like *Akeelah and the Bee*, brought spelling bees to Canadians' attention in '06. Spelling even became—dare I say it—cool. Word nerds everywhere rejoiced!

### WORST: AN EVEN MORE SERIOUS LACK OF PANTIES

Can something be a "worst moment" when it occurred several times? I'm talking about Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton, who chose to go commando under their miniskirts, thus exposing their genitals when getting in and exiting a car. Hearing about this, I was overcome with deep *weltschmerz*. So I wrote a poem to explore my feelings: "How much flesh would some white trash flash if

some white trash could flash flesh? Some white trash would flash as much flesh as they could flash if some white trash could flash flesh."

Thank you for listening.

## Ryan Heise

### BEST: THE LAUNCH OF MICROSOFT'S ZUNE

The iPod is ubiquitous; it's a fashion statement it's a pop culture icon, it's unparalleled even if you hate its DRM and want to punch Steve Jobs in the face. But Microsoft wanted a slice of the ever-growing portable digital-music market and made a stab at it by releasing the Zune in November.

Don't get me wrong; I'm an iPod guy and think the Zune is a piece of garbage, but the iPod needs some competition. Microsoft has the money to keep making the Zune better even in the face of losing money on it. The Zune will hopefully challenge Apple to step up their game, something they haven't really done since the iPod was released.

### WORST: LOST MINISERIES

What was ABC thinking? Six episodes—and not great ones—of what is one of the highest rated shows on TV followed by a three-month hiatus due to college football or something? Ridiculous.

I know that they're airing the remainder of the season for 16 straight weeks come February, but I'm going to have a hard time reinvesting time into this show after the mediocre first six episodes and a lengthy hiatus. I hear 24 has a guy torturing terrorists and shooting people in the face. Is this true? I may have to have to check it out.





“I believe the government that governs best is the government that governs least.  
And by these standards, we have set up a fabulous government in Iraq.”

STEPHEN COLBERT AT THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER

Tyson Durst

**BEST: TRANSFORMERS 20TH ANNIVERSARY DVD**

Since Chuck Norris didn't release a new movie last year, the single greatest moment in entertainment for 2006 was the DVD re-release of the remastered, Transformerific 20th anniversary edition of the classic science fiction animated epic known as *Transformers: The Movie*.

As if people needed any more proof that the 1980s was the best decade in the history of modern popular culture; there's not just one moment that makes this film jizz all over the audience with loads of awesomeness. There are multiple orgasmic moments that will make you laugh, cry and cheer in this classic struggle of good versus evil. From Optimus Prime single-handedly tearing through ranks of evil Decepticons and kicking bad-guy ass to various inspirational music montages, this entire movie stands as one big, best moment of last year. Let's hope Michael Bay doesn't fuck up the live action film due out this summer.

**WORST: CELEBRITY RACISM**

There seemed to be a highly contagious virus going around in Hollywood last year that caused some well-known celebrities to spew some pretty venomous, hateful rants that deservedly marked them as subjects of ridicule, satire and old-fashioned scorn.

First, a drunken Mel Gibson dropped the tired, anti-semetic, Jews-are-responsible-for-everything-bad-that-has-happened-in-the-world babble (c'mon, Mel, I'm pretty sure that you had a lot to do with movies like *Braveheart* or *What Women Want*), while Michael Richards decided to deal with a heckler at a comedy club by going on a long, uncomfortable shouting spree as he publicly recalled the good ol' days when white folk

could legally sodomize a "nigger" with kitchen utensils for daring to interrupt a stand-up comedy routine.

Not only do these men share the award for Worst Moment of 2006 but they also share the award for Biggest Douchebags of 2006. Congratulations. Your white bed sheets are in the mail.

Renato Pagnani

**BEST: HIP-HOP LYRICS OF 2006**

1. "You could think my messy hair and vintage clothes are cute but when you stare back you could think I'm homeless too."—Louis Logic

Hipsters worry their wardrobes are the cause of sabotaged introductions.

2. "Don't you have a bladder then how come the liquor keeps getting to your head?"—Sway

Britain's best emcee quizzes bar troublemakers on the biology behind insobriety.

3. "I'm on the floor like 'Holy shit!'"—Ghostface Killah

This line isn't even particularly great, but the way Ghostface sells it, you don't know whether to laugh or duck for cover.

**WORST: HIP-HOP LYRICS OF 2006**

1. "Freeze your face like bosilium toxin."—Black Thought

I guess rappers are allowed to make up words now. The word Thought was looking for here was *botulinum* toxin—known to MILFs everywhere as Botox.

2. "She said she love you love you long time."—Nelly Furtado

Technically not a hip-hop lyric, but directly quoting *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* is never justifiable.

3. "Save me from the Black Parade, release me."—Jay-Z

Technically a hip-hop lyric, but referencing *My Chemical Romance* is never justifiable.

Michael Larocque

**BEST: STEPHEN COLBERT AT THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION DINNER**

Gaming consoles be damned: my favourite moment in entertainment was Stephen Colbert's uncomfortably ironic lambasting of George W Bush at last year's White House Correspondents Dinner. A defining moment in entertainment largely ignored by the mainstream press, the popularity of his keynote roast highlighted the importance YouTube played last year in entertainment, and his performance also managed to painfully scathe a press core that had been woefully idle in covering presidential affairs. The President looked like he was ready to tear Colbert apart, but *The Daily Show* vet came out with a newfound respect as a serious political satirist.

**WORST: K-FED IN ALL HIS GREASINESS**

Every time I heard mention of Kevin Federline this year was one too many. Besides sapping Britney Spears of all detectable hotness/potential, this greasy backup dancer fails at even being an interesting C-list celebrity. Aside from walking around with a smug sense of self-importance, the self-dubbed "K-Fed" has done nothing more notable than releasing a hip-hop record that aspires to mediocrity and being dropped as a sponsor from the Five-Star clothing line. Federline's last gasp of fame will come from what will likely be a contentious divorce process, as his death rattle before mercifully fading into obscurity.





# Films, films, films: which are good, which are bad?



MIKE  
LAROCQUE

With 2006 over and the Oscar-contender-filled November and December past, the most special time of the new year is upon us—that special time when film critics get to arbitrarily place a select few films above all others. Without further ado, here are my top five films for 2006:

## THE DEPARTED

Hyped as Martin Scorsese's attempt at grabbing the Best Director statue at this year's Oscars, *The Departed*'s most notable triumph isn't getting bogged down by its own weight. Starring Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Wahlberg and Matt Damon, it's notable that the violent story of identity and sacrifice in the line of duty wasn't lost among a handful of award-worthy performances. Whether Scorsese's Oscar-less status will change has yet to be seen, but *The Departed* is yet another film which solidifies his place in the filmmaking history books.

## LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

The dysfunctional family unit has perhaps never been presented as simultaneously depressing and hilarious as with *Sunshine*'s protagonist core, the Hoovers. Steve Carell delivers a hilarious, out-of-character performance, proving his acting chops and singling himself out as the highlight of an all-round spectacular film. Despite a limited release, *Little Miss Sunshine* still managed to achieve the highest per-theatre gross of all movies playing for more than two weeks after

its release, showing that even a movie based on profoundly unfunny situations can still make for comedy gold.

## CASINO ROYALE

I'll grant that the Bond's latest outing may have placed behind a few other flicks this year, but the understated action film injected new life into a stale franchise, and for that it earns a spot on the list. Done away with was the tuxedo-clad Brit of old in exchange for a darker, grittier and slightly less polished Bond. To cap off a critical and box-office hit, an outstanding performance from Daniel Craig garnered widespread praise and silenced the anti-Craig naysayers.

## V FOR VENDETTA

An artful adaptation of Alan's Moore's acclaimed graphic novel, the film proved to be a popular and critical success amongst both fans and mainstream audiences. While not completely loyal to the texts and at times a heavy-handed commentary on the war on terror, *V for Vendetta* still manages to thrive in a world where so many comic-to-movie adaptations go horribly wrong. For originality and a definite break from the expected, *V for Vendetta* easily makes my list.

## ALL THE GOOD FILMS I DIDN'T SEE

The inherent problem with this list is not only its subjectivity, but also the fact that there are many good films from 2006 that I have yet to see. *Letter's From Iwo Jima* and *Babel* are both flicks I've managed to as of yet miss and could have made my list—at least, if popular film criticism is any indication. *Borat*, despite making many critics' "Top 10" lists, remains a very funny guilty pleasure for me, and others like *Rocky Balboa* and *Inside Man* still rank amongst 2006's most enjoyable films.

# Best of theatre in 2006

Edmonton was home to some fantastic performances. Many of them will go down in history; the rest will, uh, die a lonely death



AMANDA  
ASH

## BEST TENNESSEE WILLIAMS ADAPTATION: THE GLASS MENAGERIE, KILL YOUR TELEVISION

Tennessee Williams' plays tend to encounter characterization and accent problems (think the Citadel's 2005 production of *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*), but *The Glass Menagerie* was flawless in every way.

## BEST SPECTACLE: THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, JUBILEE AUDITORIUM

Fire! Crashing chandeliers! Moving staircases! My eyes were hungry for more. Really, I felt like a kid at the circus—minus the cotton candy. *The Phantom of the Opera* might be on Edmonton stages more often than it's not, but nonetheless, it still manages to please.

## BEST ACTIVE DESTRUCTION OF FREUD'S THEORIES: MRS KLEIN, STUDIO THEATRE

Playwright Nicholas Wright tried way too hard to simplify Freud's phallic obsessions for audiences. You just can't cram all of Freud's theories about mother-offspring relationships or the death drive into a boring plot about a dysfunctional family.

## BIGGEST WASTE OF TIME: ALADDIN, JUBILEE AUDITORIUM

If I wanted to hear lame jokes and watch stupid magic tricks, I would've hired a smoke-smelling, vodka-soaked carnie to entertain me. At least then I could've thrown rotten food or something to make him shut up.

## BEST UNEXPECTED COMEDY: PRIVATE LIVES, NORTHERN LIGHT THEATRE

*Private Lives* was one of those plays that doesn't boast a heck of a lot of depth but will leave you giggling throughout. I never thought relationships could be so ridiculously funny.

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# 2006's music hipster-approved



PAUL  
BLINOV

## CDS

### 1. TV ON THE RADIO—RETURN TO COOKIE MOUNTAIN

On their sophomore record, TV On The Radio managed to craft an album so spectacular and so different that even David Bowie had to add his seal of approval via backing vocals. It's sparse, sample-laden pop music that sounds like nobody but TV On The Radio, and, more importantly, sounds better than anybody else too.

### 2. BELLE & SEBASTIAN—THE LIFE PURSUIT

*The Life Pursuit* sounds like the work of a fresh-faced band of teenagers, not one that's been making clever music for a decade. The Scottish septet sings of perpetually late choir girls with troubled home lives, white collar boys and trying to make sense of this big ol' world. Lovely.

### 3. ANDRE ETHIER—SECONDATHALLAM

Andre recently got hitched, and this is his musical honeymoon: an album about being in love forever-and-ever. Drums explode on "In With The Prim," sounding like a celebration he's throwing for his newfound spouse. Elsewhere, he's tender and warm, singing "Little girl, little girl, well, you're always on my mind." D'awww.

### 4. AA SOUND SYSTEM—LAISSEZ-FAIRE

Ahh, the pride of having an ass-kicking local music scene is immeasurable. In a year when Edmonton bands made themselves heard across Canada (and the world), AA Sound System quietly released this gentle doozy of an album. Acoustic guitars meet electronic drumbeats, and processed guitars greet vocal harmonies, making *Laissez-Faire* a great addition to Edmonton's bubbling catalogue of hot music.

### 5. BECK—THE INFORMATION

Beck's strange, genre-twisting career has been hit-or-miss of late, but on *The Information*, he strikes an alluring peace between everything he's ever done before. It feels like a reinterpretation of some of his best ideas, and it sounds fantastic. The album begins with, "One, two, you know what to do!" and this time, it seems like Beck really does.

## Shows

### 1. FINAL FANTASY—THE POWERPLANT

A freaking overhead was used. Yes, just like the ones found in high schools and shabbier university classrooms, an overhead was used as a visual background to Owen Pallett's effortless violin-looping, projecting images of twinkling stars, letters and a lover's kiss. The audience was so into it that Pallett received demand for (and gave) two encores. It was a show to remember.

### 2. SHOUT OUT OUT OUT OUT—THE POWERPLANT

It was a snowy March evening. CBC was sponsoring this free show and

the Powerplant was packed. S04 took the stage and degree-hungry students quickly devolved into a single jumping, bumping, sweaty mass. The only complaint I heard was from a friend who, due to the weather, had worn long johns under his pants. After the show, they were *drenched* with sweat.

### 3. FRANZ FERDINAND AND DEATHCAB FOR CUTIE—SHAW CONFERENCE CENTER

Deathcab's OC-approved, heart-felt melodies coupled with Franz's mischievous, charming Brit-rock? It seemed like a bizarre combo, but Deathcab got the crowd into a groove, then, switching gears, Franz lifted the sold-out Shaw Conference Center to their feet and got them dancing the night away.

### 4. ISLANDS—THE STARLITE ROOM

It was Halloween: costumes were abundant and the band started off with "The Monster Mash." Pumpkins were smashed, a knife was wielded by a band member (to no violent conclusion) and two audience members—one a robot, the other a bunny—were called onstage to dance with the band. All of this mayhem was a welcome addition to Islands' delicious pop.

### 5. MATT GOOD (SOLO)—MYER HOROWITZ THEATRE

I'll admit it: before seeing this show, I thought Matt Good's best days were behind him. But after his performance, I left with the knowledge that he hasn't even gotten started yet. He played the full spectrum of the MGB/solo catalogue with just a guitar in hand, making his newer material seem classic and the old songs seem, well, even better.

# Consoles, conventions and games

New inventions, pow-wow cancellations and a lot of playing time graced 2006



RAMIN  
OSTAD

2006 was a standout year for the video game industry. We saw *World of Warcraft* on South Park, the release of games such as *Gears of War*, rising anticipation for games like *Bioshock* and *Assassin's Creed*, the tragic end of E3, as well as not one, but two major console launches from Sony and Nintendo. Indeed, 2006 was a great year to play games.

### BEST STRATEGY GAME: COMPANY OF HEROES, RELIC, PC

Relic has done some phenomenal work with real-time strategy games over the last two years, and *Company of Heroes* may have been their peak. The game forces you to think small, requiring tactical use of specific squad types without much time for planning beforehand. What you end up getting is a fast-paced, intense RTS game that can seem almost too hard at times—never frustrating, though—but always entertaining. The environments are diverse and highly destructible while the sound effects are startlingly authentic. *Company of Heroes* is really a hallmark achievement for Relic.

Runners-up: *Defcon*, *Dawn of War: The Dark Crusade*.

### BEST ACTION/ADVENTURE GAME: THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: TWILIGHT PRINCESS, NINTENDO, WII

The flagship title for Nintendo's Wii, *Twilight Princess* benefits greatly from the Wii-Remote/Nunchuck combination. The sword fighting is intuitive, the aiming is perfect, the art style is gorgeous, and the dungeons are massive and spectacular. The only real downsides to the game are its lackluster audio and texture work. Although these technicalities definitely could've been improved, they become forgivable when you consider just how enjoyable and expansive the game is as a whole.

Runners-up: *Okami*, *Bully*.

### BEST ROLE PLAYING GAME: FINAL FANTASY XII, SQUARE ENIX, PS2

Simply put, *Final Fantasy XII* is probably one of the best games in the franchise. While it was initially met with heavy skepticism, *FFXII* has many things going for it. The controversial new Gambit Combat System makes a once stagnant combat structure fun, refreshing, and fast-paced. The game also looks amazing—both artistically and technically—and the story and voice acting are pretty damn good, too. The game's License Board upgrading system can be a bit frustrating at times, but it also allows players the freedom to completely customize every character in the game. There was definitely no other game like it in 2006.

Runner-up: *Oblivion*.

### BEST SHOOTER: GEARS OF WAR, EPIC GAMES, XBOX 360

The big blockbuster in 2006 was definitely *Gears of War*. Sporting eye-popping visuals, it wasn't only the best looking game of 2006, but also one of the most intense. Using a mechanic affectionately called "stop-and-pop," the game forces you to stop and use heavy cover on a constant basis while popping up every few seconds to shoot at your opponents. The action is intense from start to finish (which comes far too quickly), and allows for you and a friend to play cooperatively through the main game, even over Xbox Live. *Gears of War* really has everything an Xbox 360 owner could ask for.

Runners-up: *Prey*, *Half-Life 2: Episode One*

### BEST SPORTS GAME: NHL '07, EA SPORTS, XBOX 360

While one could argue that *NHL '07* is a fairly similar game to previous iterations of the franchise—and pretty bare-boned—the game's innovative skill stick feature makes it stand out from other sports games. By allowing players to control the hockey stick with the right analog of the controller, *NHL '07* allows for a much more intuitive control scheme that can make the game addicting to play. After a while, you begin to wonder how you ever played a hockey game before this one. The skill stick controls make *NHL '07* the best hockey game in years, and the best sports game of 2006.

Runner-up: *Fight Night: Round 3*

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FILE PHOTOS: JOSH NAULT (BOTTOM LEFT), WEIYANG LIU (TOP LEFT), BEN BEGLEY (ABOVE)

## Reliving the past: 2006 in sport

From the track to the rink to the gym, 2006 was a banner year for U of A athletics

ANDREW RENFREE  
Sports Staff

As 2006 fades, the athletics department at U of A can sit back and say, "That was a pretty solid year." Alberta's sports teams proved, once again, that this fine institution of learning is also a strong contender on any court, field, rink, track, mat or other venue on which varsity sports are played. But, while Pandas and Bears teams brought home three gold, one silver and one bronze medal in '06, there were also blunders and teams that didn't meet expectations. These championships and disappointments make up the top five sports stories at U of A for 2006:

### 5. BEARS HOCKEY DOUBLE UP

The Bears hockey team decided they liked winning the CIS hockey championship in front of a home crowd so

much in 2005 that they achieved the same feat in '06. The championship story got even more interesting when the Bears sheepishly admitted that they lost the trophy they were awarded only a few days prior while partying on Whyte Avenue. Thankfully, it was found shortly after, but if the Bears manage to win this year in Moncton, they may want to appoint someone to stay sober and watch over the hardware.

### 4. CARLINE MUIR DOMINATES THE TRACK AND THE COMPETITION

How do you spell champ? MUIR, it would seem. U of A track star Carline Muir cleaned up in 2006 both individually and as part of the Pandas relay team. She garnered gold in the 300m then led Alberta to gold in the 4x200m relay as well as the 4x400m relay. As if this feat wasn't impressive enough, Muir was only in her first year

competing at the CIS level. She'll have a prosperous career at U of A and may bring glory to Canada at the Olympics in the future.

### 3. PANDAS HOCKEY RETURNS TO GOLDEN FORM AT NATIONALS

Winning championships became standard operating procedure for the Pandas hockey team in the last few years, but after being upset in the championship final in 2005, the Pandas wanted revenge in 2006. While their season was strong (20-1-3, overall), they had lost some key players and goal scoring was down. Their goaltending was also questionable at times during the year and critics figured the team may fold in the finals again. Not even former *Gateway* writer Jake Troughton, who covered the team for three years, figured the gals could get 'er done in '06, but perhaps to spite Mr Troughton, Alberta

beat Laurier 2-1 to claim their fifth title in seven years.

### 2. BEARS SOCCER GO UNDEFEATED, TAKE CROWN AT FOOTE FIELD

Because Alberta hosted the men's soccer championship in 2006, the Bears knew they had an automatic berth into the championship before the season began. However, it became clear partway through the regular season that the soccer squad would deserve a ticket to the big dance based on their strong performance. Alberta posted a regular season record of 9-0-5, but lost badly in Canada West championships to Trinity Western and UBC. The Bears weren't discouraged though, and fought their way to the national final, where they claimed revenge over Trinity for the CIS championship and electrified the home crowd at a freezing Foote Field.

### 1. BEARS VOLLEYBALLERS BUNGLE CHAMPIONSHIP AGAINST TWU

If there was one team last year that would have been a listed as a shoe-in for a national championship, it would have been the Bears volleyball team. Alberta won in 2005 and dominated the court in 2006 posting an overall record of 34-2. Not even Alberta's toughest competition, the Trinity Western Spartans, could impede the Bears' progress as Alberta won the Canada West championship in straight sets. The Spartans didn't take lightly to being tossed aside, though, and ended up stunning the Bears, their fans and us reporters covering them by winning 3-0 two weeks later to take the national championship. Alberta played their worst game of the season and Trinity played their best, leading to a decisive victory and making the upset the top university sports story of the past year.





FILE PHOTO: ERIC KOZAKIEWICZ

## Oilers, Pronger fiasco highlight Edmonton sports scene in '06

NICK FROST  
Sports Staff

The past year in Edmonton's sports scene could be likened to a Friday night in the life of an alcohol-fuelled university student: a few hours of jovialness followed by a long, nauseating hangover. While our fair city had its moments of brilliance, the top five sports stories of 2006 came mostly to the dismay of the City of Champions.

### 5. WHL GIVES EDMONTON SECOND CHANCE, OIL KINGS BORN

When the Edmonton Ice left town in a blaze of suck back in 1998, many wondered if—and when—the Dub would ever return to the Alberta capital. With the announcement that Edmonton would be awarded a franchise to begin play in the 2007/08 season, the answers were “yes” and “June 2006.” A contest was held for fans to decide the team's moniker and in November it was decided that they would revive the old Edmonton Oil Kings concept that saw Memorial Cup success in 1963 and 1966. I'm cool with the revival, as long as the team plays more like the Oil Kings than the Ice. That's one franchise that shouldn't rise from the dead.

### 4. RUSH PLAY LACKLUSTRE IN INAUGURAL NHL SEASON

January 2006 saw the National Lacrosse League's Edmonton Rush debut on Rexall turf. It's fairly commonplace for expansion teams to have jitters in their first year, but the Rush went through what looked more like seizures as a first-year franchise. The team handily finished with the league's worst record at 1–15, causing the 30 or so people in Edmonton who actually showed up to the games to wonder if the team's cheerleaders, the Edmonton Crush, could've posted a better record. Fortunately, the Rush have vastly improved their roster for 2006/07; now if only the Crush would follow suit.

### 3. ESKIMOS' HISTORIC PLAYOFF STREAK COMES TO AN END

2006 also marked the first time in 34 years that the Edmonton Eskimos failed to reach the post-season, ending the longest streak of playoff appearances in North American professional sports. Despite losing a crapload of key players from the 2005 Grey Cup-winning squad in the

off-season—especially on defence—the Eskis couldn't resist completely fucking themselves right out of the gate, losing five of their first seven games en route to the second-worst record in the league (7–11), behind only the hapless Hamilton Tiger-Cats. The dismal season even caused long-time president Hugh Campbell to step down at the end of the season. Enjoy the rebuild, boys!

### 2. CHRIS PRONGER DUCKS OUT OF EDMONTON, GIVES NO REASON

What can \$31.25 million buy you these days, other than a decent one-bedroom apartment in this city? One year of Chris Pronger and a proverbial bitch-slap. Oiler fans were shocked to find out—only two days after the playoffs—that their star defenceman wanted out of Oil Country; what was even more shocking is that he decided that Eastern media outlets deserved to be the ones to break it to us. The bombshell sparked a gang of rumours, some of which included Lauren Pronger's disdain for Edmonton, and Chris Pronger's fertilizing of either a local puck bunny or reporter. At the end of the day, however, his reasons for leaving are personal and we'll just have to live with it, especially since every question about it—even those asking if the situation that caused him to leave has been resolved—is answered with some form of, “Fuck off.”

### 1. EDMONTON OILERS CUP RUN

Before the Chris Pronger fiasco took place, the Edmonton Oilers instilled a little bit of magic (and a lot of booze) into this city that hadn't been seen since 1990. The Oilers rolled through the first three rounds of the Stanley Cup Playoffs en route to becoming Western Conference champions before meeting the Carolina Hurricanes in the Stanley Cup Finals. Despite losing playoff hero Dwayne Roloson in game one to Marc-André Bergeron's attempted defence and Andrew Ladd's best Jeff Gillooly impression, the Oilers pushed themselves to the limit, but fell one goal short of tasting victory in game seven. In spite of the loss, the fans in Oil Country continuously showed their appreciation for their boys by putting Oiler flags on cars, drying up beer supplies all over the city and destroying Whyte Avenue phone booths, presumably because they cheered for the Flames.

## Klassen reigns on ice, Zidane ends with a bang of the head—at least they weren't on steroids

TREVOR PHILLIPS  
Sports Writer

2006 marked the latest in the four-year cycle that brings us both the FIFA World Cup and the Winter Olympics. The creation of the World Baseball Classic added yet another opportunity for international competition between the best in sports. Though these major events were wrapped in steroid accusations and questionable usage of an athlete's head, '06 will be remembered not for its downfalls but for its surprises and departing legends.

### 5. JAPAN WINS WBC

In March, Major League Baseball held the inaugural World Baseball Classic in the hopes of creating marketing appeal in baseball-dominated countries in Asia and Latin America, and to offer baseball fans a chance to see pros compete for their countries. There were some major upsets: Canada beat the heavily favoured United States in the first stage, Cuba knocked off powerhouse Dominican Republic in the semifinals, and Japan took it all home behind major leaguer Ichiro Suzuki and Japanese League Star Daisuke Matsuzaka.

### 4. TALENTED TRIO HANG 'EM UP

Three sports said goodbye to legends in 2006. In Tennis, American great Andre Agassi played his last match in the third round of the US Open, capping off an illustrious 20-year career. Agassi is considered one of the greatest technical players to ever play the game: he's one of only five men to win all four Grand Slam titles, he has seventeen tour wins and an Olympic gold.

In hockey, “The Captain” Steve Yzerman retired after 23 years. Yzerman was one of the youngest captains in NHL history at 21 and is also the longest serving. Yzerman won a Conn Smythe in '98, three Stanley Cups, an Olympic gold medal, a World Cup and finished sixth in all-time

scoring. Stevie Y was a great competitor who battled back from serious injuries twice, represented Canada well and should be a first ballot Hall of Famer.

Also, in 2006, the F1 racing world bid farewell to it's raining monarch, Michael Schumacher. Schumacher retires as the icon of his sport. He holds pretty much every racing record, including championships, poles, fastest laps and victories. He's also the first athlete to earn over a billion dollars and is credited with single-handedly making F1 popular in Germany.

### 3. KLASSEN GOLDEN FIVE TIMES OVER AT TORINO

The 20th Winter Olympics were held in Torino, Italy from 10–26 February. The Games featured 84 medal events that played out in front of empty seats, shoddy weather and some doping. Besides the entire Austrian ski team fleeing the games because of suspected illegal activity, Russian biathlon contestant Olga Pyleva was also stripped of her silver medal after testing positive for carphedon.

Luckily, the Canadian hockey team left their games on this side of the pond, Cindy Klassen snagged five gold medals and Canadian Female Athlete of the Year honors and Canada finished with 24 medal—good enough for third overall behind the Germans and Americans.

### 2. PAIN IN THE ASS: STEROIDS DEVALUING THE GAME

From Jason Gatlin to the book *Game of Shadows*, 2006 was a year covered in allegations of doping amongst athletes. The Winter Games in February were the start, shortly after Major League Baseball declared harsher penalties for illegal substances, with three strikes resulting in a year's suspension, Tour De France winner Floyd Landis tested positive for high testosterone levels in July and August, stand-out Pro Bowl defensive end

Shawne Merriman of the NFL's San Diego Chargers was also given a suspension for using a banned substance, and even the NHL has had rumours of athletes using performance-enhancing drugs. Ultimately, the cheating has resulted in the perception of athletes being transformed from role models to cheaters.

No one can look at spectacular sporting achievements anymore without wondering if the athlete may be juicing or popping or whatever Barry Bonds did to make his head grow eight sizes. Records are being called into question, medals and championships are being taken away and people are even going to jail. Whatever happened to just doing a little blow before big games? Hey, Mr Strawberry?

### 1. ITALIANS KICK THEIR WAY PAST HEAD-BANGING FRENCHMEN

The number one event of 2006 has to be the FIFA World Cup. Held in Germany from 9 June until 9 July, the most watched sport in the world took centre stage and delivered excitement across the globe. The '06 World Cup saw some traditional powerhouses return to prominence. While heavy favourite Brazil lost in the quarter-finals, France, Germany and Italy all made the semis—joined by Portugal—and Italy won for the fourth time. The Italy-France final was the first all-European final since 1982 and the first to end on penalties since 1994. This World Cup will be remembered for two things: the abnormally high amount of cards being handed out—an astonishing 373 total cards, which broke the record set back in 1990—and of course, “The header heard 'round the world.” Late in extra time of the Final, French captain and legend Zinedine Zidane lowered the boom on Italian Marco Materazzi with a headbutt to the chest after Materazzi insulted his sister. Zidane was sent off in disgrace and the French lost the match.

## TOP ATHLETES IN 2006

- Tiger Woods: After his father died in May and the first missed cut at a Major of his career, Tiger roared back to win the British Open and PGA Championship, and finished the season winning the last six events he entered.
- Vince Young: Starting the year by leading Texas to an upset in the Rose Bowl over USC, Young has continued to shine in 2006, winning eight games for Tennessee and being named the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year.
- Sidney Crosby: Though he finished second for the Calder behind Alexander Ovechkin, “Sid the Kid” is currently leading the NHL in points. He's also raking in the dough from Gatorade, Reebok, Pepsi and Tim Horton's.



# Hoops Bears split with Dinos

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

CALGARY—After sweeping the Calgary Dinos in November, the Golden Bears basketball squad was looking to go four-for-four against their division rivals this weekend in Cowtown. Instead, a determined Calgary squad fought the Bears to a weekend split, with Alberta (8-4) taking Friday's opener 90-82 and Calgary responding with a 89-77 victory on Saturday.

"Out of the three games [including a tilt in the Golden Bear Invitational over Christmas], it's nice to see we got the Bears twice, and that gives us a little confidence to maybe go into the play-offs [against the Bears] because they've beat us the last couple years," Calgary head coach Dan Vanhooren said.

Friday night, the Bears displayed the same offensive intensity that saw them blowout the Dinos 94-79 and 100-70 in November. The Bears shot .500 on the game and made only twelve turnovers while piling up 23 assists, and post Scott Gordon poured in 29 points in the victory.

"We were giving them holes and

letting Gordon do whatever he wants. Our post players need to play tougher inside," Vanhooren said.

Saturday night saw a reversal of fortunes as the Bears blew a 13-point advantage late in the first half by turning the ball over on offence and allowing Calgary to shoot 10-21 from three, including 8-13 in the second half.

"[Saturday], the thing that hurt us was our decision-making was brutal," Alberta bench boss Don Horwood said. "When we had that 13-point lead, we had about four or five turnovers in a row and we let them back in because we turned the ball over and they got a few quick baskets on us.

"I was disappointed because we had the game, in my opinion, under control," he added. "They outworked us in the second half. They wanted it more; they hit key shots; they made the big plays. They deserved to win and we didn't deserve to win."

Fourth-year guard Tyson Jones, the only Bear who notched significant playing time Saturday and finished without one of the team's 21 turnovers, attributed them to Alberta pushing too hard for baskets.

"We have a lot of competitive guys who come from different backgrounds where they're very good players and they think they can take it upon themselves to get the team back in it," he said. "I think we got a little bit impatient and tried to force things when we shouldn't have, instead of slowing it down and running our offence, so I think that caused the turnovers."

Despite suffering their first regular season loss to Calgary this year, Horwood was pleased with his team's position through twelve games.

"Playing on the road and getting a split is not that bad. It's tough to win back-to-back games in the other guys' gym," he said. "We're in first place in our [division], and we're in good shape. We could have come down here and lost both."

Jones, however, expressed a differing opinion on the weekend's outcome.

"Last year I would have taken a split in Calgary no problem, but this year we've got a lot stronger team; the season's going good for us, and we're not satisfied with a split—we should have come out with a sweep. We feel we're a better team than Calgary."



NEAL WILDING

**CRASHING THE CREASE** Jennifer Newton (8) bears down on Stacy Corfield.

## Problems exposed for Panda hoopsters

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

CALGARY—The best and worst of the basketball Pandas was exposed in a weekend split in Calgary against the Dinos last weekend.

Despite attempting 30 more shots than their opponents on Friday and forcing 35 turnovers, Alberta (10-2) shot only .342 from the field and 16-30 from the foul line in a 73-69 loss.

"We played horrible," Alberta head coach Scott Edwards admitted. "We were late to all the loose balls; we were late to all the rebounds; all the hustle plays we talked about, [the Dinos] won them. I have no idea how that team came out like that. We had a great week of prep, we had a great trip, we're fit and ready to go, and we just came out on the floor and put the ball above our heads and were scared."

For Calgary (5-7), a victory over Alberta exhibited the strides they've made since the first meeting between the two teams this season. Dinos head coach Shawnee Harle was particularly

impressed with her team's ability to hang on after star Lindsay Maundrell fouled out in the fourth quarter.

"We really battled hard," Harle said. "We're a different team than when we played them in November. We're a little more seasoned; we're a little tougher, a little scrappier and, hopefully, a little hungrier."

With only Ashley Wigg—who scored 26 points—in double figures, Friday's game served as proof of what may be the Pandas' downfall this season: a lack of dependable scoring.

"We're relying on people to trust themselves and take the shots they know they can hit, and [Friday], suddenly no one wanted to shoot the basketball," Edwards said. "You saw an example of how, if you don't have a go-to scorer, things can break down if people aren't working hard. Unfortunately tonight it was all five people on the floor, not just one or two."

"I don't know if we were quite playing our game yet coming out of Christmas," Wigg added. "[Friday] we started off real low and it wasn't our team play like we usually had going

for us. Our consistency wasn't there; our attack mentality was a little shy."

Saturday night saw the Pandas get back to doing what they do best offensively: distributing the ball and scoring by committee. Kristin Jarock notched 20 points while Wigg added 13. Michelle Smith put up 16 points and added seven assists as Alberta pulled out a 72-57 victory.

"It feels great to beat Calgary; we hate Calgary—always will," Wigg said. "It would have felt better had we not let up a little bit. We let up a little bit there at the end of the third and into the fourth, and the game should have been a blowout."

The Pandas forced 30 more turnovers on Saturday and held the Dinos to .345 shooting, flustering their southern Alberta rivals. For Edwards, the win showed his team's resiliency and pride.

"One of our team goals this year is never to lose two in a row, and [to do so] talks about your ability to bounce back from adversity and to challenge yourself to compete the next night, regardless of the situation," he said.

## THE PEP RALLY

Written by Paul Owen

### Pandas Hockey

The ladies of winter, as I'm dubbing the 15-1 Pandas, avenged their only loss on the season with a pair of thrashings of the Manitoba Bisons at Clare Drake this weekend. Alberta won 3-1 and 5-0 and Lindsay McAlpine had a five-point weekend on three goals and two assists to pace them. Jenna Barber added two goals and two assists in the two wins.

### Bears Hockey

In a shocking twist on what you've read in this space week after week throughout this season, the Lethbridge Pronghorns finally bested an Alberta team at a competitive sporting event. The Bears (13-2-3) were downed 6-5 in a shoot-out on Friday night, but were able to rebound with a 6-3 win Saturday. Ben Kilgour potted a hat trick in the victory. Big thanks to the Bears for forcing a moratorium on the Lethbridge jokes for a week. I appreciate it guys. If you're going to lose, could you at least do it to a school that is populated by students who couldn't get into Calgary (which is,

of course, populated by students who couldn't get in here).

### Pandas Volleyball

Alberta (9-3) headed to Winnipeg to take on the previously top-ranked Manitoba Bisons (8-1). Friday night saw the visitors surprise their hosts with a straight-set victory, but Manitoba returned the favour with a 3-0 win the following night. Also, Monday morning saw Rick Mercer and the *Rick Mercer Report* join the Pandas at practice. Alberta was preparing to host International Budo University, which hails from just outside of Tokyo. The game goes Tuesday at 5pm in the Main Gym.

### Bears Volleyball

The men had the weekend off, but also host International Budo tonight at 7pm, right after the women's game.

### Fantasy Hockey

After a rough Christmas break that saw my hockey team go 1-2-2 and drop to sixth in the standings, a scheduling break allowed me to tee off on league bottom-dweller Dave Young. The 9-1 beating my team administered is sure to leave a bad taste in the RATT manager's mouth, much like his food does.



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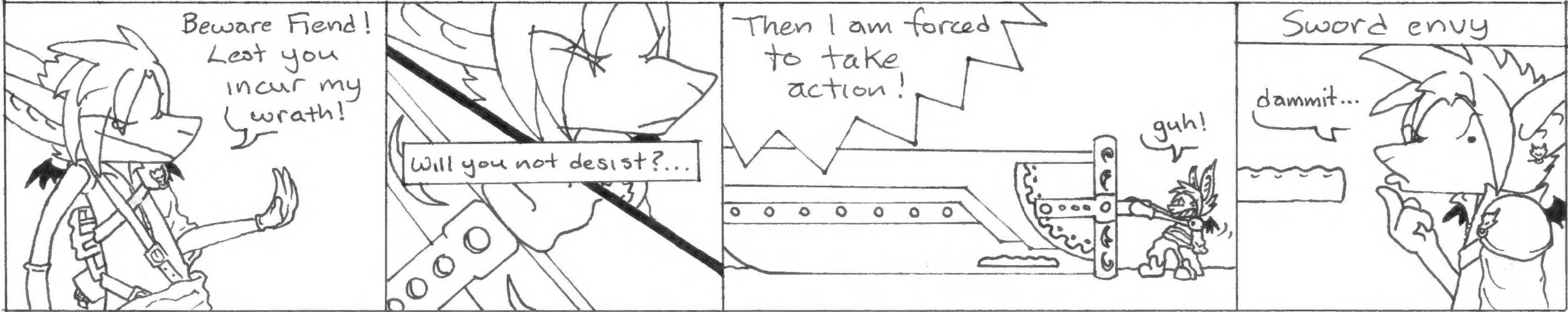


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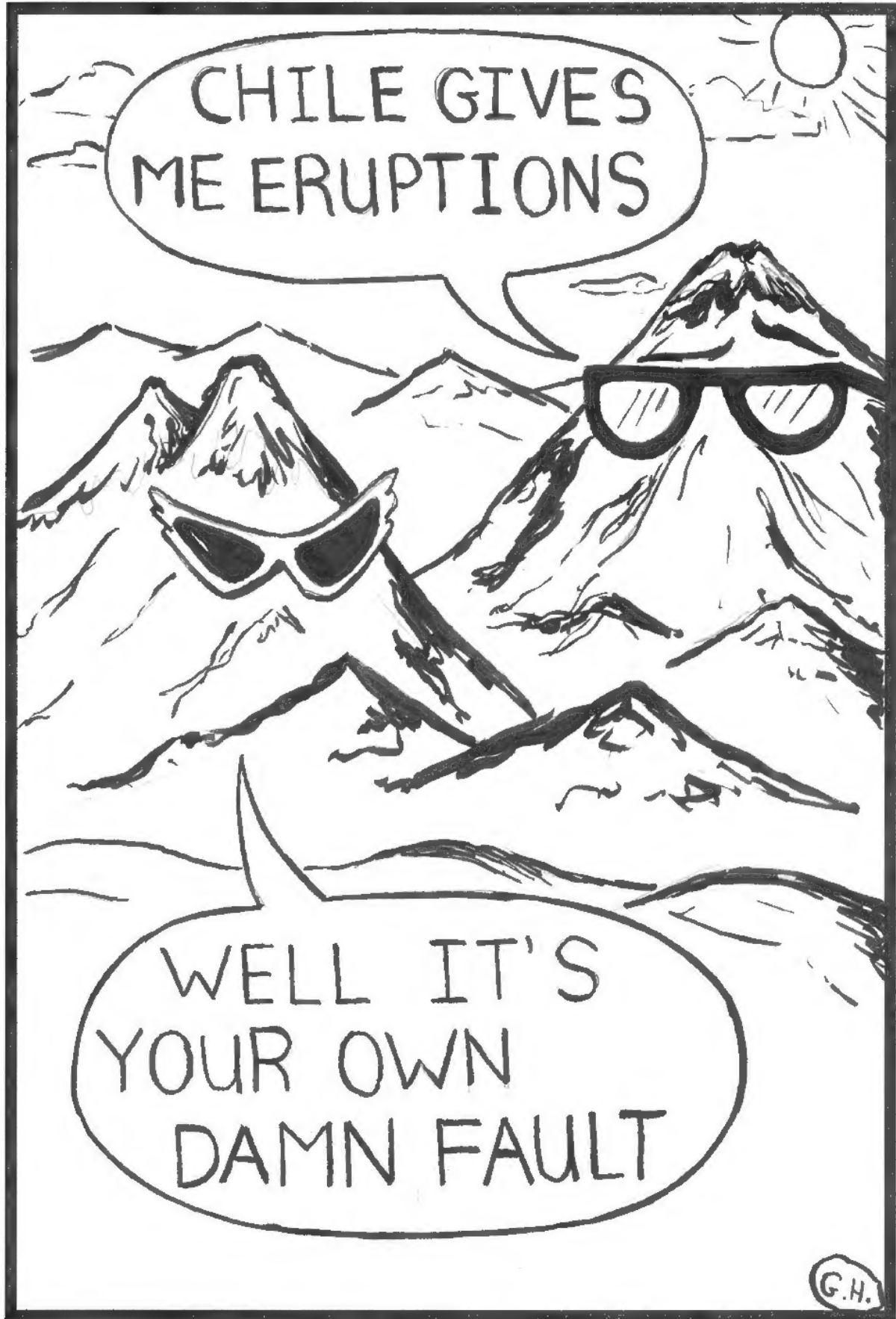
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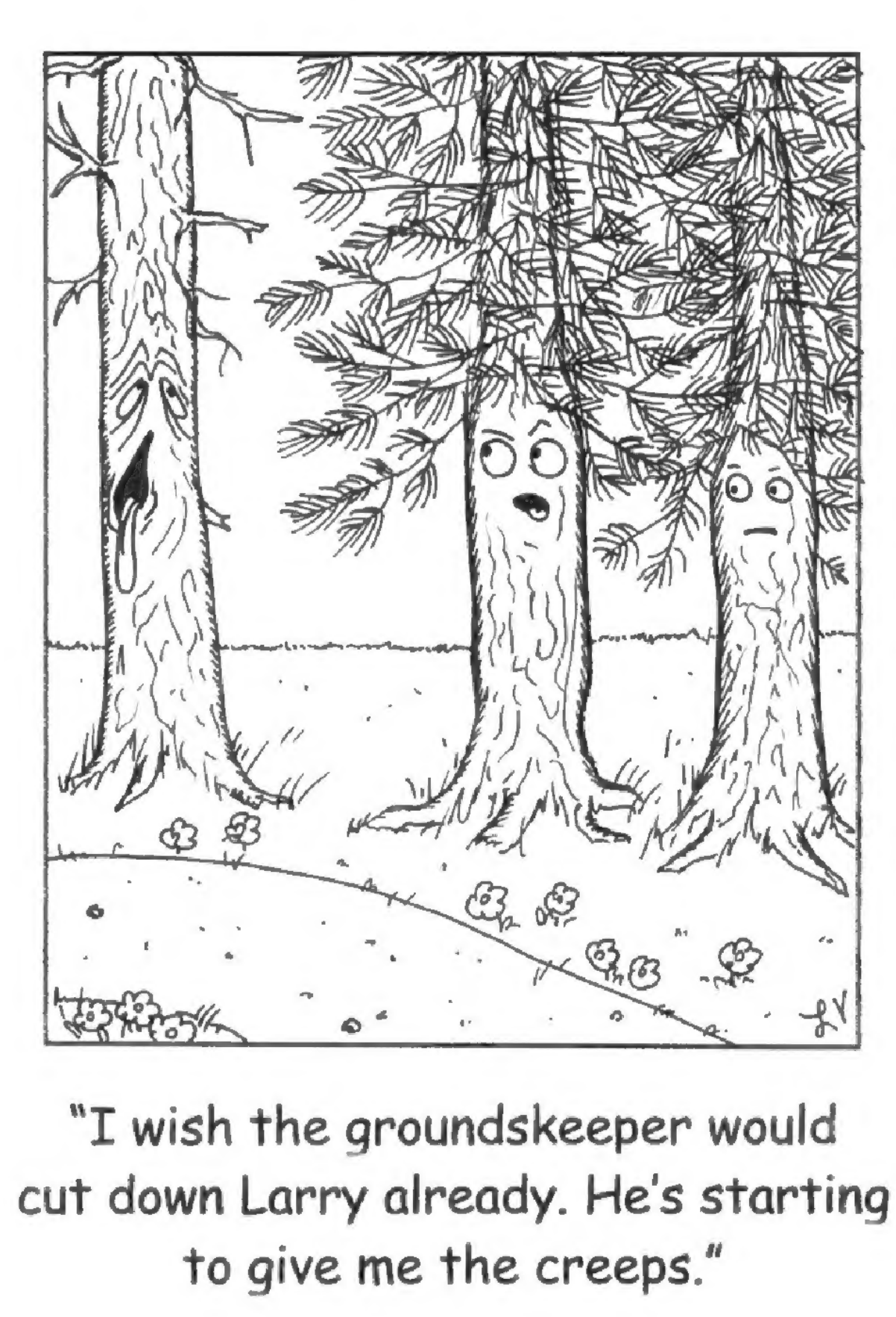
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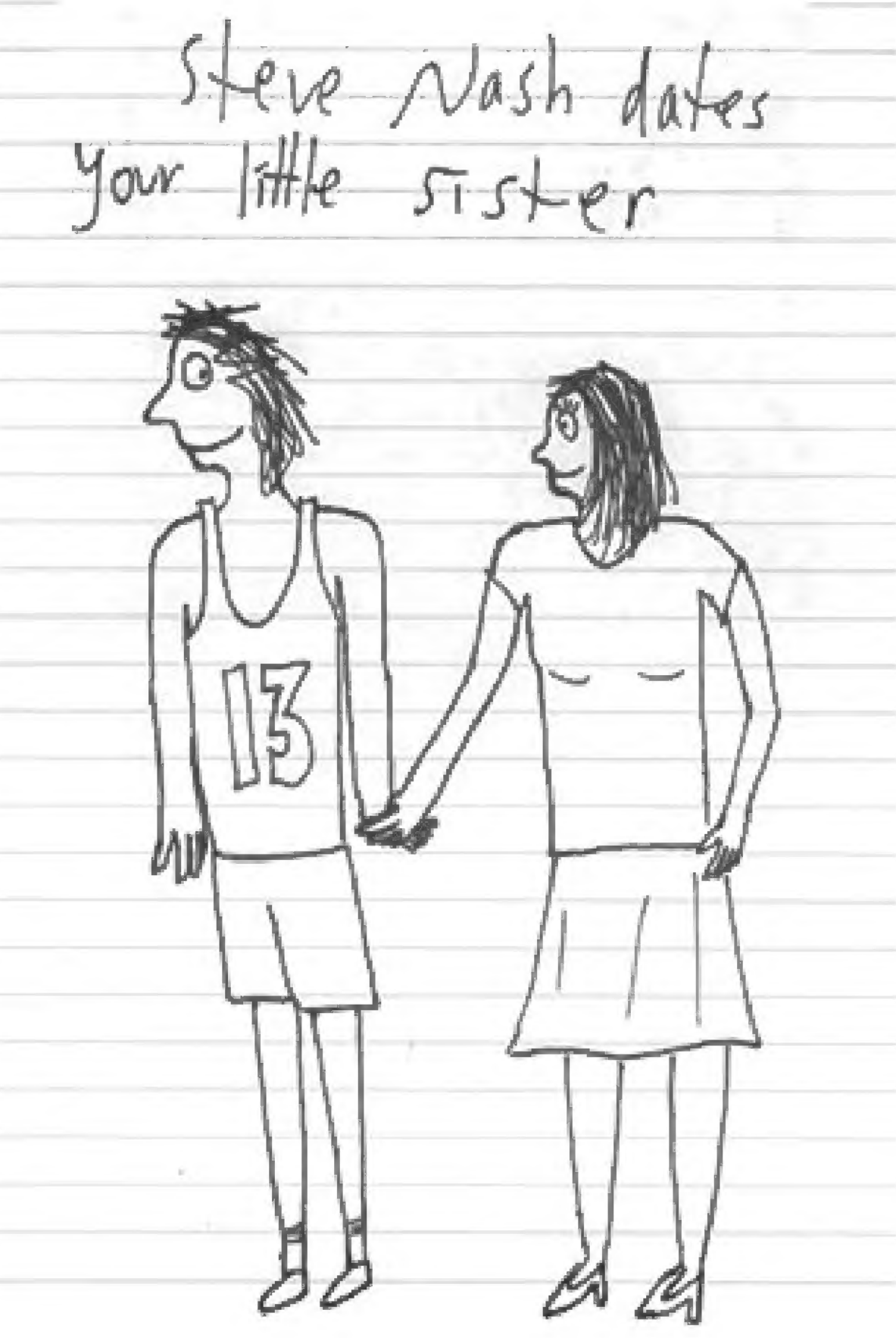
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Big Brothers Big Sisters Club Meeting: Are you a U of A student or staff who's a BBBS volunteer, or just curious about BBBS? Come to our meeting at 5pm Wed 10 Jan. 2-14 Humanities. Contact Monica at BBBS at 424-8181 ext 249 or [m.walker@bbbsedmonton.org](mailto:m.walker@bbbsedmonton.org).

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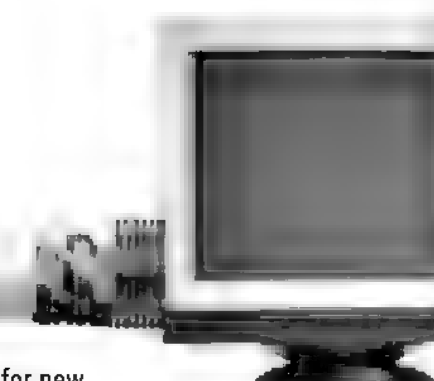
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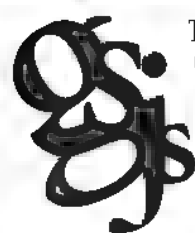
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Compiled by Mike Otto

## SUCKS TO HIS ASS-MAR

At around 6:50am on 26 January, a male rang the doorbell of a house in the Garneau area. He explained that his daughter was having an asthma attack in his home across the street and that he needed \$9 to buy her a new inhaler. The generous neighbour gave him the money, and the man—who promised to pay back the debt—never returned.

Similarly, and also that morning, a man rang the doorbell at another Garneau residence, asking the homeowner for an inhaler because his three-year-old daughter was having an asthma attack. Much to the dismay of the morally deficient male, the resident offered an inhaler; instead of readily accepting the aid, the distressed man indicated that it was the wrong dose and insisted on borrowing money for a new one. In the end, the man gave up and accepted the inhaler, agreeing to return it to the resident's mailbox later. The inhaler wasn't returned, and after discussing the incident with a roommate, it was found that the persistent man had come ringing earlier that morning.

THE POOR GUY JUST WANTED A  
TOUCH OF CLASS (ROOM)

A man was charged with trespassing on 21 February when he was found using University of Alberta classrooms for private tutoring sessions, in spite of not being University staff. According to reports, the man was charging non-university students for lessons in Tory and Education buildings and had been doing so for some time. The wannabe professor previously had been warned about his conduct, and further, formal action was taken to halt his ambitious endeavours.

I HEAR THERE ARE OTHER THINGS ON  
THE INTERNET, TOO

At 10pm on 4 March, a caller reported that a "pervy" old man with long, greasy hair and wearing a winter coat was viewing pornography in the computer lab on the lower level of SUB. Upon attending the area, Campus Security identified the man, who thankfully wasn't a University student or staff member. He was kicked off campus.

## ONE-SHOED WONDER

During a 9pm patrol on 19 August, Campus Security constables heard the sound of breaking glass from the Dentistry/Pharmacy building. Upon further investigation, a drunken male sporting one shoe was found inside the building. He had emptied the contents of a fire extinguisher in the hallway for unknown reasons and was in the process of kicking out a window when 5-0 arrived.

The male was arrested and handed over to EPS. While inside the police van, the man kicked the doors of the vehicle so hard that authorities needed to use a crowbar to get them open again.

## HEADSTRONG HELLRAISER

At 2am on 22 August, while on patrol in the area around Newton Place, Campus Security received a report of a man who had smashed his head through the window of a nearby business.

When 5-0 arrived, the hardy hoodlum was bleeding and threatening bystanders with a pair of scissors. Campus Security ensured the safety of the bystanders and requested the assistance of Edmonton Police. EPS quickly responded, and the male was arrested and taken to the hospital for treatment of his injuries.

## DRIVE-BY PURSE SNATCHING FOILED

On 4 September at around 8am, a truck containing three females pulled a U-turn on 87 Avenue and drove up alongside a female student. While one of the women in the truck distracted the lone pedestrian by asking for directions around campus, one of the others grabbed the surprised student's purse and pulled it into the truck. The victim quickly went to the 5-0 office—sans purse—and reported the incident.

Campus Security located the suspects in the area of 109 Street a short time later and EPS was called to the scene. Two female youths were arrested and charged with several offences and it was determined the truck was stolen. Most of the student's property was

recovered.

## SIMPLY A STREAK OF GENIUS

At 11:23am on 6 September a naked man was spotted running through the halls of the Law building. A description of the nude avenger, provided by one unlucky observer, was passed on to Campus Security. A short time later it was reported that a man was stripping down to his underwear and harassing women in SUB.

When confronted by Campus Security, the man was given a warning for being intoxicated in a public place. As with the majority of all-star Crime Beat contestants, he wasn't a student or staff member. He was left in the care of a sober friend and presumably re-pantsed shortly thereafter.

## POINT, CLICK, AND CREEP OUT

At 6pm on 23 September, a man was reported to be taking pictures of a girl studying in CAB. The girl didn't know that he was taking these photos until he approached her and asked if she liked them. The picture-happy lurker told Campus Security he saw nothing wrong with this activity. Aside from creeping people out, he had no reason to be on campus and was promptly removed.

## NOT YOUR PERSONAL POTTY PLACE

On 19 November a male was identified after having defecated in the bottom of a stairwell in HUB Mall. He had no University affiliation and a questionable grasp on the intricacies of social propriety. He was given a warning and escorted to the LRT where he left campus.

## STREETERS

As you may be aware, 2006 recently drew to a close. Now is the time to focus on the painful experiences of the year past.

What was your worst memory of 2006?



**Brett Myer**  
Mech Eng III



**Chris Samuel**  
Delaying Entering  
Real World VII



**Sahib Gill**  
Business III



**Rick Mercer**  
It's Rick fuckin'  
Mercer!

I'm from Calgary, so I'd say the Oilers making it to the Stanley Cup finals.

Getting elected to the Board of Governors. Man, that was a bad decision.

I broke my windshield. I was at the wrong place at the wrong time. Well, actually, the place was fine, I was just there at the wrong time.

I dropped my Blackberry in the toilet and it fried. Which might not be awful but of course I hadn't backed up anything in about six months. That moment watching it hit the water is frozen in my memory for sure.

Compiled and photographed by Natalie Climenhaga, Steve Smith, Krystina Sulatycki and Phil Head

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**GET DIRTY EVERY SATURDAY WITH JAGER AND HIGHBALL SPECIALS**



# 2006: Year of the Norovirus

Communicable disease, severe housing shortages and off-campus jobs for international students make news on University of Alberta campus last year

BILL LUTHI  
News Writer

## STUDENT HOUSING STRUGGLES

Student housing was hard to find for many in 2006, with the current economic boom being blamed as the cause of the shortage. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), from October 2005 to October 2006, Edmonton's vacancy rate (the number of unoccupied homes in the city) averaged an extremely low 1.2 per cent. Students' Union President Samantha Power stated the SU was trying to help with the situation by running an off-campus housing registry and by pushing for a universal transit pass to offset costs of travelling to campus from other areas of the city. Grant MacEwan began a program in August to address the student-housing shortage. It allowed for students from other schools to use their excess housing spaces that couldn't be filled by Grant MacEwan students. On top of the housing crunch, the University of Alberta is considering a ten per cent raise in the rent of residences in response to the increasingly expensive Edmonton housing market.

## NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK AT LISTER

Lister Hall, the largest residence at University of Alberta, faced an outbreak of Norovirus, a highly

contagious disease that causes gastrointestinal illness. Common symptoms can include diarrhea and vomiting. In 2006, there were approximately 130 cases of students catching the disease. On 21 November, a Norovirus Outbreak Information and Feedback Session was held at University Hall. The session outlined the Office of Environmental Health and Safety's response and the lessons that were learned to prevent future outbreaks in university residences. The year also saw outbreaks of noroviruses in other Canadian institutions, such as Mount Allison in New Brunswick.

## U-PASS ON TRACK

Progress was made on the universal transit pass this year. On 18 September, St Albert City Council committed to subsidizing a U-Pass. Later, on 10 October, the City of Edmonton also approved partial funding to the U-Pass. The subsidy of the two cities amounted to \$30 per student, with the U of A has committed \$15 per student. On 17 October, the Students' Council passed a motion to set the framework for a U-Pass referendum question in the spring. According to the question, a mandatory \$75 per semester fee would be collected from students.

## CHEQUES FOR COUNCILLORS

Student Councillors voted themselves pay cheques this year. Former

Arts councillor Catrin Berghoff proposed the payment scheme to Council in April. She justified the decision, stating that it gave students with financial burdens and jobs an opportunity to alleviate their difficulties by allowing them to cut back on their work hours. Science Councillor Sylvia Shamanna was one of those who criticized the plan, and disagreed that the proposal would alleviate such financial barriers. Shamanna felt that motivations besides compensation should drive those that run for a position on the Students' Council.

## JOBS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

This year international students were allowed to work off-campus for the first time ever at the U of A. An agreement between the federal and provincial governments resulted in a program that allows students to apply for a work permit through from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). The program was designed to give international students experience in the Canadian workforce while increasing Alberta's labour pool. Unlike the work permits for international graduates, which require an offer of employment, these student work permits allow the recipient to work in any job they desire. There is however, a 20-hour cap during academic sessions, and the limit raises to 40-hour workweeks over breaks.

# Plenty of presidents make news in 2006

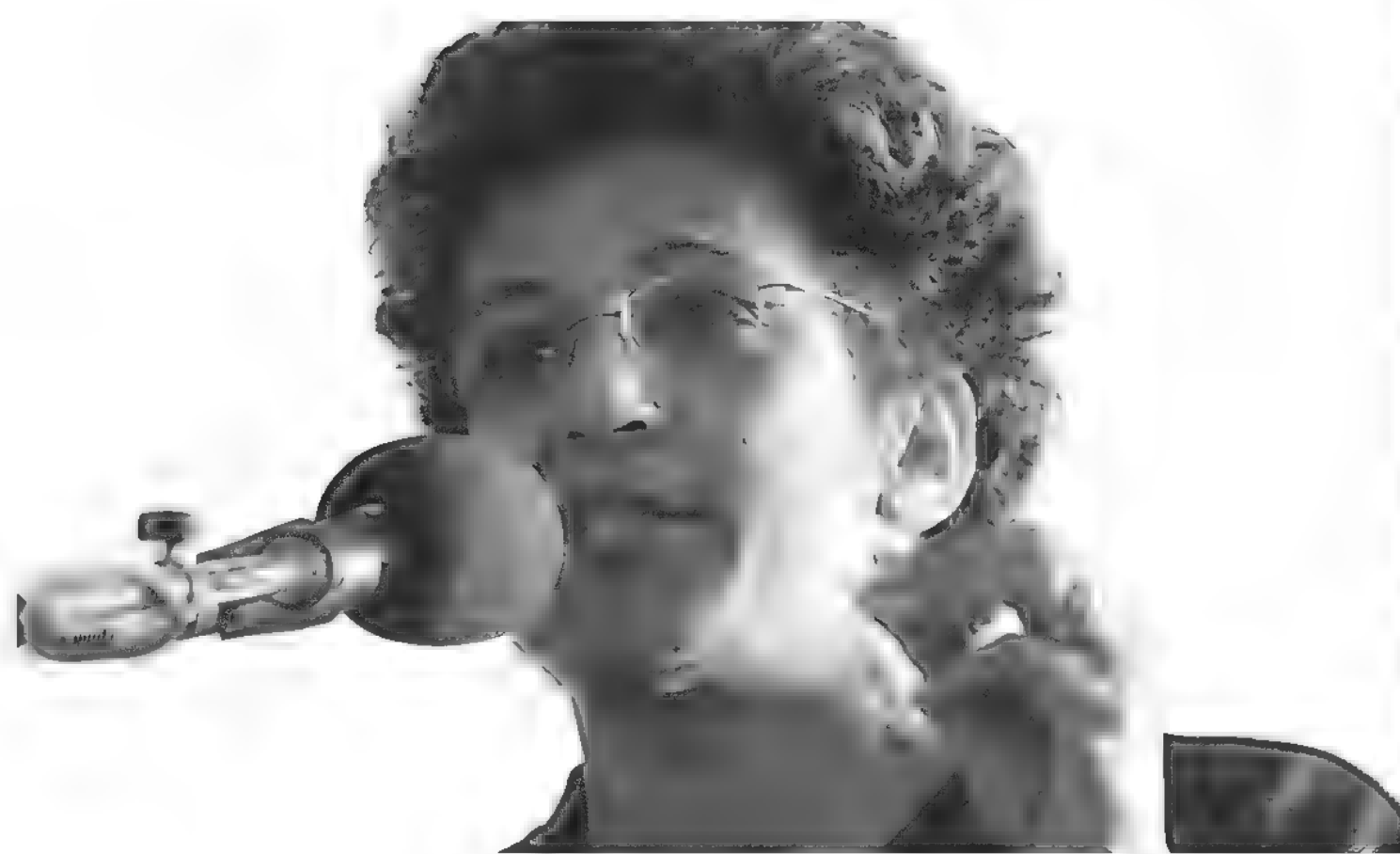
ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
News Staff

## INDIRA SAMARASEKERA

Unlike her predecessor who earned a reputation for avoiding publicity, there was no hiding for University President Dr Indira Samarasekera in her second year as head of the University of Alberta. Whether it was the confirmation of the renovations planned to the Bay building downtown or her vision to have the U of A rank amongst the best universities in the world, Samarasekera continues to overhaul the institution she took over. However, construction cranes weren't the only visible signs of the changes she's brought to the university in 2006. On a wider front, Samarasekera was among the first leaders of a Canadian university to opt out of *Maclean's* magazine's rankings of universities and her openness has led the Administration to work closer with the Students' Union on a variety of student issues including a Universal Bus Pass.

## SAMANTHA POWER

From Vice-President (External) to President of the Students' Union, Samantha Power spent 2006 working and advocating for students. Wearing her VP (External) hat, Power dedicated much of the early part of the year talking to the provincial government, trying to influence its review of post-secondary education and make education more affordable for students. Even while the Progressive Conservative party was breaking up to back different candidates for leader, Power as chair of the Council of Alberta University Students spearheaded the effort to keep student issues in the foreground of the race. She continued this work after her election as SU President and has also pushed the Administration and the City of Edmonton hard to try and finally



**OUR RESIDENT PRESIDENT** Indira was in the spotlight promoting the U of A.

make an affordable Universal Bus Pass a reality for students.

## DENIS HERARD

Despite having the legislative progress grind to a halt because of a fall party leadership contest, former advanced education Minister Denis Herard made plenty of waves last year. In November, Herard introduced a new tuition policy 632 days after Klein promised Alberta would have the "most affordable tuition in the country." However, student representatives were disappointed by the new policy, stating it marked little change to the status quo. Add to that Herard's infamous Bill 40 in May, which deregulated tuition policy, and he might be able to take some small pleasure in being shuffled out of Cabinet at the end of the year.

## GRAHAM LETTNER

He was only in office for the first four months of 2006, but for former SU president Graham Lettner, they turned out to be his most eventful. While he continued to push longstanding student concerns and issues, under Lettner the SU subtly shifted their opposition to annual tuition increases and began to lay more of the blame at the feet of

the province. But Lettner made a larger impact on the SU when he nearly killed the Travel Cuts settlement—and cost the SU a bundle—more than a decade after the lawsuit had begun. The near disaster awarded Lettner the honour of almost becoming the first SU president in years to receive a formal reprimand from Students' Council.

## CARL AMRHEIN

This past year was a rough one for the University's Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Dr Carl Amrhein. Having been the broad public face of the Administration before the hiring of President Samarasekera, Amrhein slipped below the radar in 2006. He became as the bearer of bad news when informing the media and students of the Norovirus spreading through the Lister Hall residences, as well as being asked to play bad cop on every funding announcement from the provincial government. Perhaps the most controversial remark Amrhein made was during a January 2006 debate, when he chastised the Students' Union as not being fully representative of students because the SU fails to represent "wealthy [students] for whom tuition, quite frankly, is not an issue."

THE LEGEND CONTINUES...

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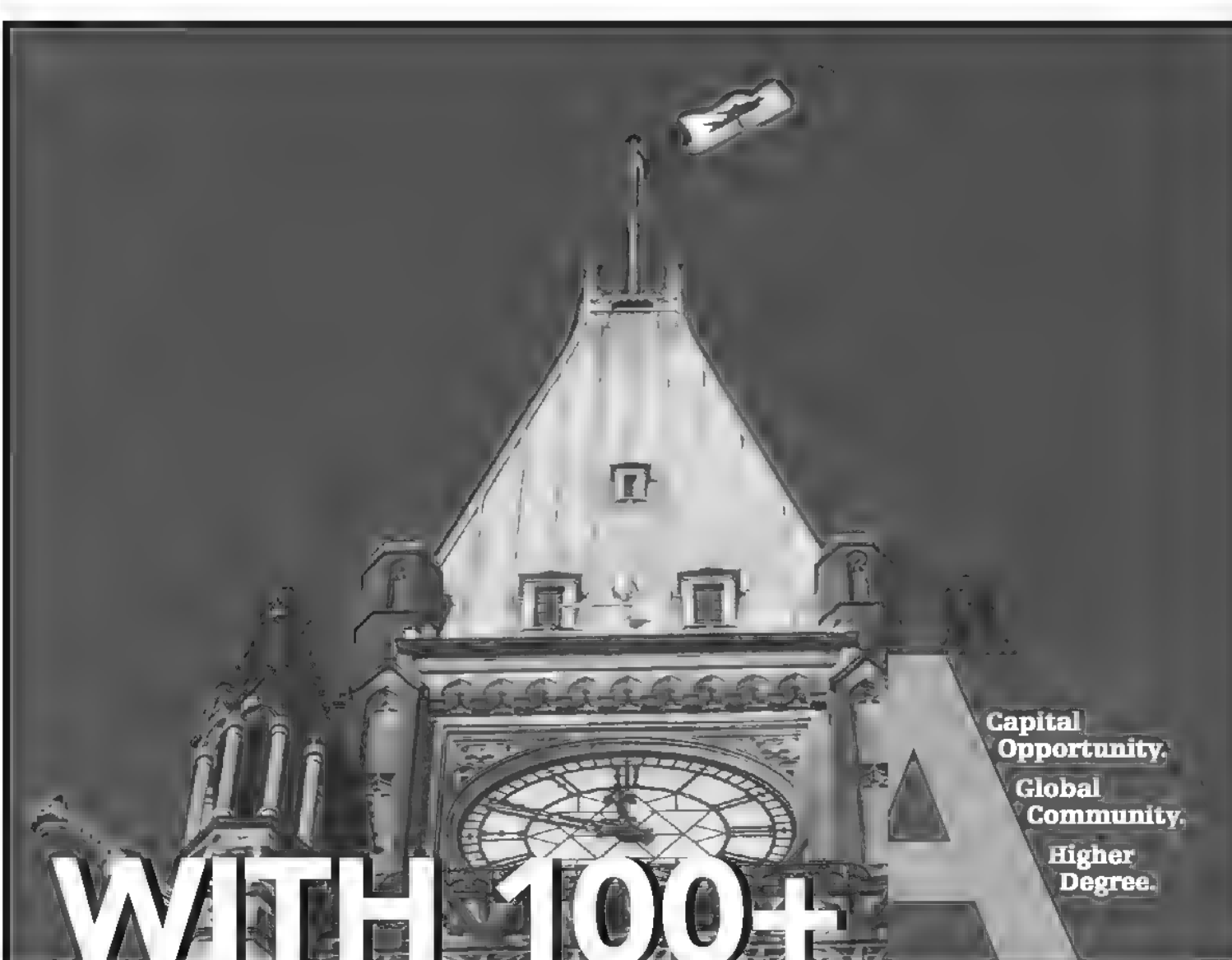
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The Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research

# Alberta's headlines dominated by elections and economy in 2006

SCOTT LILWALL  
Deputy News Editor

## TORY LEADERSHIP CONTEST

In 2006, Albertans saw the retirement of long-time premier Ralph Klein, as he handed over the leadership of the ruling Progressive Conservative party exactly 14 years after he first took the position.

Weakened support from party delegates in a March 2006 vote led Klein to schedule a new leadership election for later in the year. Ed Stelmach, who resigned as Intergovernmental Relations Minister in June to pursue leadership, was elected as Alberta's new premier. Despite not releasing a campaign song, Stelmach beat out two other competitors, former treasurer Jim Dinning and former university professor Ted Morton, by preferential ballot in late November.

"Honest Ed," as he was dubbed by the media, began by reducing the number of ministry positions from 24 to 18. His new Cabinet, divided evenly among experienced ministers and newcomers, was regarded by many as a move towards a more rural-focused executive.

## ALBERTANS RECEIVE RALPH BUCKS

The prosperity bonus program,

first announced by premier Klein in September 2005, led to a great debate over what should be done with Alberta's \$6.8 billion surplus. The cheques, which were mailed out to Alberta residents in January 2006, brought mixed reactions from recipients. Some saw them as a much-needed respite from rising energy and gasoline costs, while others argued that the money could have gone towards better uses. In all, Albertans received cheques worth \$400 each, for a total expenditure of approximately \$1.6 billion.

Despite concerns over the effectiveness of the program, the government noted that very few of the bonuses were returned once sent out.

## ECONOMY CONTINUES TO GROW

Rising oil prices and a corresponding boom in the service industry saw the Albertan economy growing to unprecedented levels in 2006. Studies suggested that the province benefited from the fastest growth in Canadian history, as well as the lowest unemployment rate in North America—3.4 per cent.

The growth didn't come without problems, however. Growing immigration into the province caused low vacancy rates and rising living costs.

Many businesses, especially those in the service and retail sectors, were forced to offer higher wages and more benefits to compete with the many high-paying jobs available in the oil patch. Some were even forced to cut business hours due to staff shortages.

## THIRD WAY SPARKS HEALTH DEBATE

While the provincial government's push for a Third Way, a hybrid of private and public health care, began in 2005, it made big headlines early last year. In late February, the Tory government revealed their ten-point plan to create a provincial health-care system that would allow doctors to work in both the private and public systems. As well, some patients would be able to pay more to gain access to faster surgeries, primarily joint and hip replacements and cataract surgery.

Many opposed the plan, including the federal government and Alberta's opposition parties, arguing that the plan might draw the most talented medical staff from the public system. Even the government admitted that many of those consulted while the plan was being crafted were against privatization. In response to the opposition, the government dropped its Third Way plan in April 2006.



ERIC KOZAKIEWICZ

**NOT SO QUIET RIOT** Oilers fans lit up a section of Whyte Ave as the team made the run for Lord Stanley's cup. Literally.

## 2006 showcased worst of Whyte Ave

RAMIN OSTAD  
News Writer

Whyte Avenue definitely had its fair share of newsworthy moments in 2006. From bar brawls and nose biting, to fist fights, stabbings and playoff fever, the heart of Edmonton's nightlife has many stories to tell.

## MAN BITES NOSE DURING BRAWL

Probably one of the more strange news stories of 2006, Bar Wild lived up to its name when a man's nose was violently bitten on 8 October. At 1am, Edmonton police were called to the bar after reports that 31-year-old Aaron Helferty had been attacked by a group of other men. During the attack, 21-year-old Zack Morrison jumped at Helferty and bit him on the nose, severing the lower half of his right nostril. Bar staff evicted all of the men from the bar and Helferty was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Morrison later turned himself in to authorities in mid-December and was charged with aggravated assault.

## PHOTOS OF ARRESTED USED AS EVIDENCE OF POLICE ASSAULT

Whyte Avenue police officers definitely had their hands full during the Oilers'

Stanley Cup playoff run. On 17 June, the night with the highest number of arrests, 394 people were taken into custody. Among them was 20-year-old Kristin Wilson, who was caught on film by an *Edmonton Journal* photographer as an arresting officer struck her in the head. The police claimed that the move was called a "head stun," which officers are trained to use as a method of subduing someone who is actively resisting arrest.

According to Wilson, she was arrested for stepping off the curb and asking what happened to a friend who had been arrested. She said she was then struck when she swore at the officer after he told her to, "Get on the fucking bus." After the incident, Wilson filed a lawsuit against City Police, and left Edmonton to return to her hometown of Vernon, BC.

## MAN STABBED BY STRANGERS

One tragic news story from 2006 was the murder of Dylan McGillis. McGillis, who was moving from Lloydminster to Edmonton to be with his girlfriend, was out celebrating with friends on Whyte Avenue early 19 November after learning he was going to be a father.

At closing time, McGillis' group came in contact with several males.

Words were exchanged and additional people joined the suspect group until there were more than a dozen people. McGillis was assaulted and knocked to the ground. One of his friends was leading him away from the melee when someone in the suspect group lunged forward, and stabbed him in the chest. He died later in hospital.

## FANS RIOT DURING PLAYOFF FEVER

The NHL playoffs brought with it Whyte Avenue's most memorable moment of 2006—the now infamous riots. After a tremendous victory over the San Jose Sharks, Oilers fans went a little crazy, filling the streets of Whyte Avenue in a drunken rampage. There was plenty of drinking, dancing, fighting, and looting, which led to numerous arrests. Much of the festivities made their way onto the Internet, including a YouTube video of a topless girl in a shopping cart having a lit firecracker thrown at her face.

The rioting went on for quite a while, until Edmonton lost to the Carolina Hurricanes in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals. As stunned and subdued Oilers fans poured out of the bars after the 3-1 loss in Raleigh, NC, there was no repetition of the raucous partying that followed earlier games.

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JOSH BROWN (THE LINK)

**TRAGEDY IN MONTRÉAL** The shocking shooting at Dawson College brought calls for greater gun control in Canada.

## War and weather caught the country's attention last year

### WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

Canada's military role in Afghanistan came under increased scrutiny in 2006. Thirty-five Canadian soldiers and one diplomat were killed there this year, as Canada took on a larger and more dangerous role in the NATO mission. Canadian troops are in the Kandahar region, an area where Taliban resistance is strong and NATO casualties high. In May, the Harper government extended the mission by two years to February 2009, sparking great discussion in the House of Commons.

The situation has caused debate in Canada over this country's role as a military rather than peacekeeping force.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Weather was in the headlines this past year as climate change dominated politics in Ottawa. The West Coast was pounded by storms in November, resulting in a boil-water advisory for Vancouver. And in December Stanley Park lost more than 1000 trees to heavy winds. Former environment minister Rona Ambrose was widely criticized for her handling of that portfolio; environment groups accused her of not being clear on the government's position. Early in 2007, she was moved to a different Cabinet position.

ding of that portfolio; environment groups accused her of not being clear on the government's position. Early in 2007, she was moved to a different Cabinet position.

### TAXES ON INCOME TRUSTS

In a surprise press conference on 1 November, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced a new plan to collect taxes on income trusts in Canada. The announcement caused much protest among businesses and private citizens alike, and the Toronto Stock Exchange dropped 2.4 per cent the day of the news.

### DAWSON COLLEGE SHOOTINGS

On 13 September, Canadians were shocked by shootings at Dawson College in Montréal, where 25-year-old Laval resident Kimveer Gill fired on students and staff. Nineteen were wounded in the shooting, and one, 18-year-old Anastasia Rebecca de Sousa, was killed. Gill took his own life after being wounded by the police.

*Globe and Mail* columnist Jan Wong wrote a controversial story on the shooting, linking it and other acts

of violence to an intolerant Québec society. The article sparked massive protest, and Parliament unanimously called for an apology from Wong.

### CADRE PRINTS DANISH CARTOONS

The Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* threw their small country into the limelight when, in September 2005, it published twelve cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. The cartoons, which were reprinted in numerous European newspapers, brought about violent protests and burning Scandinavian embassies in early 2006. However, the retaliations weren't enough to deter the University of Prince Edward Island's student newspaper, the *Cadre*, from also printing the images in February 2006. Ray Keating, the *Cadre*'s editor, said the decision to run the images was made in defence of freedom of speech. The University's administration, however, said that they didn't support the publication of the images, which they deemed as an "invitation to trouble."

-By Robin Collum, Thomas Wagner, Natalie Climenhaga and Scott Lilwall

## Harper tops nation's newsmakers

Warring ex-couple, tortured Canadian and basketball MVP also make list

### STEPHEN HARPER

For the first time since the days of Kim Campbell in 1993, Canada saw a Conservative government in the halls of Parliament when Stephen Harper became Canada's 22nd Prime Minister. On 23 January, Canadians voted in a minority government, giving the federal Conservative Party 124 seats.

Since the win, Harper and the Tories have hit the headlines many times, most notably extending Canada's commitment in Afghanistan, calling for a second look at 2005's same-sex marriage legislation and passing a federal accountability act.

### MAHER ARAR

Mahe Arar's story began in September of 2002 when, on a flight through New York's JFK airport, he was arrested on suspicion of terrorist activities. He was then sent to Syria where he was tortured and imprisoned for over a year. Arar was returned to Canada in October 2003 and an inquiry was launched into his case, which released its final findings almost four years after Arar was originally detained. The September 2006 report found that Arar was arrested on grounds that were later found to be false. The report completely exonerated Arar of any wrongdoing,

and sharply criticized the RCMP for its role in the Canadian's deportation. It accused the RCMP of giving misleading information to the FBI, and obstructing the Foreign Affairs department's investigation.

In the end, Parliament offered an official apology to Arar, as did RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli, who eventually resigned from his position in December.

Despite his exoneration, and Tory efforts to clear his name internationally, Arar remains on the US' watch list for suspected terrorists.

### MICHAEL IGNATIEFF

Despite the fact that he didn't actually win the federal Liberal leadership, Michael Ignatieff enjoyed far more media coverage than any of his rivals. He was the media darling, the front-runner from the very beginning, and as a result, people knew his name. Ignatieff eventually lost to Stéphane Dion, and took a position under him as the party's Deputy Leader. Even though Dion will certainly go on to be the more influential of the pair, Ignatieff stole the spotlight in 2006.

### STEVE NASH

In 2006, the country watched as athletes like Cindy Klassen, who won five Olympic medals in long track

speed skating, or Justin Morneau, the 2006 American League MVP, reached new heights for Canadian athletes.

Steve Nash, however, stood out above the rest by winning a second NBA MVP honour in a row. His first honour last year was groundbreaking, as he became the first Canadian to ever become the NBA's MVP his second MVP honour put the son of Victoria, BC in the basketball stratosphere.

### PETER MACKAY/BELINDA STRONACH

Peter MacKay spoke soberly of his shock and dismay in May 2005 when he learnt that his girlfriend and fellow Conservative MP Belinda Stronach had crossed the floor and joined the Liberal Party. Needless to say the pair split.

In October MacKay, now Foreign Affairs Minister, made headlines when he allegedly referred to Ms Stronach as a dog during a heated parliamentary debate on the environment. He denied the allegations, but former Alberta premier Ralph Klein couldn't resist the urge to further stir things up by stating that Stronach never had a conservative bone in her body — "except maybe one."

-By Robin Collum, Thomas Wagner, Natalie Climenhaga and Scott Lilwall

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**FACT:** Chuck Norris once ate three 72 oz. steaks in one hour. He spent the first 45 minutes having sex with his waitress.

**FACT:** Chuck Norris originally appeared in the "Street Fighter II" video game, but was removed by Beta Testers because every button caused him to do a roundhouse kick. When asked about this "glitch," Norris replied, "That's no glitch."

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# Conflicts old and new mark 2006

CATHERINE SCOTT  
News Writer

### VIOLENCE IN DARFUR

On 5 May, a peace deal between the Sudanese government and some of the warring parties in the region of Darfur failed when violence escalated to new heights in the months of July and August 2006. Embattled by issues of racial and religious dominance, the conflict is generally viewed as a battle between African and Arab ethnic groups. It's believed that the Arab-led Sudanese government has been supporting the Arab groups by arming them in this conflict. The debate over the necessity of foreign intervention was fuelled in May 2006 by the UN's condemnation of the Sudanese government for not protecting its citizens from sexual violence and violation of human rights. In September, UN aid was refused when the Sudanese government warned countries not to get involved. The conflict remains unresolved.

### DEMOCRATS TAKE US CONGRESS

By a narrow victory margin in November, the US Democrats were voted into the US Congress for the first time in twelve years and are currently preparing to pass their 100-hour agenda before the President's State of the Union address on 23 January. While American President George Bush has faced little opposition from Congress during his six years in office, the Democrats have promised to scrutinize every future request made by President Bush—specifically those aimed at increasing spending to send more troops to Iraq. The Democratic takeover also made history by electing California Congresswoman, Nancy Pelosi, as the first ever female House Speaker.

### ISRAEL-LEBANON CONFLICT FLARES

In mid-July, Israel and Lebanon found themselves immersed in another war after the Shi'a Islamic militia and political organization based in Lebanon, Hezbollah, captured two Israeli soldiers and killed eight others. After a



CARL CONRADI

**BLOODY CONFLICT** 2006 saw violence as Lebanon and Israel clashed in July.

failed attempt to rescue the soldiers, the subsequent attacks of Israeli troops on Lebanese civilian infrastructure and the air and naval blockade of Lebanon escalated to a full-scale war. The conflict resulted in the death of approximately 1500 people, most of whom were Lebanese civilians. Many people visiting families in Lebanon scrambled for ways to return home safely. Canada's massive evacuation effort, which caught approximately \$85 million, began on 19 July and ended 29 July, sparked debate among Canadians regarding the responsibility of the government for the evacuations. On 11 August, the UN Security Council unanimously approved UN Resolution 1701, which aimed to end hostilities between the two countries. Both countries accepted the resolution and by 8 September, the war was officially over.

### NORTH KOREA GOES NUCLEAR

It was a benchmark year for North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il, who outwardly demonstrated his fixation with high-power explosives. In early July, North Korea tested six missiles, including one long-range Taepodong-2 that crashed into the Sea of Japan shortly after its launch. Then on 9 October, Jong-il claimed that North Korea had tested its first nuclear weapon, heightening

diplomatic tensions between his Communist regime and the international community. Jong-il, son of famed North Korean president Kim Il-Sung, became Chairman of the National Defence Commission in 1994. A popular cult-figure inside North Korea, Jong-il has been labeled part of the "Axis of Evil," largely because of the sour relations between his country and the George Bush Administration.

### WORLD LEADERS FALL ILL

Among the world leaders who fell sick in 2006, Fidel Castro of Cuba and Ariel Sharon of Israel were monitored closely by the international community. Castro temporarily ceded the reins of presidential power to his younger brother, Raul Castro, on 30 July after falling mysteriously ill. Sharon, the former Israeli prime minister, suffered a massive stroke on 4 January and had been in a coma since. On 11 April, Sharon was declared permanently incapacitated and his five years in office came to an end. He was rushed to an intensive care unit in July, and his health continues to deteriorate. Sharon was a popular politician in Israel, who completed his country's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip before falling ill.

-With files from Jennifer Huygen

## Women leaders and funnymen in past year

JENNIFER HUYGEN  
News Writer

### SADDAM HUSSEIN

The final days of 2006 coincided with the final days of the life of former Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein. On 30 December 2006, Hussein was hanged for crimes committed against humanity during his 24-year reign as president of Iraq. Nicknamed the "Butcher of Baghdad," Hussein was found guilty for the 1982 execution of 148 Shi'a Muslims in the city of Dujail. He was subsequently sentenced to death in November after a 13-month trial that was held before the Iraqi Special Tribunal, based in the United States. The verdict and sentence were upheld by an Iraqi appeals court on 26 December and the execution was carried out four days later. Immediately following Hussein's execution, an illegal cell-phone video of the hanging was leaked to the media (and YouTube), causing Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to order an investigation. Hussein was 69 years old.

### POPE BENEDICT XVI

Pope Benedict XVI sparked anger and acts of violence across the Muslim world in September, when, during a speech, the pontiff quoted a Byzantine emperor who labeled some of the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as "evil and inhuman." In November, Benedict

carried on with a planned visit to Turkey, a country 99 per cent Muslim, where he used the opportunity to ease tensions between Christians and Muslims. Earlier in the year, Benedict also made a visit to the Auschwitz concentration camp, and worked to reconcile Catholic-Jewish relations.

### SÉGOLÈNE ROYAL

On 16 November, Ségolène Royal was elected as the French Socialist party's candidate for her country's 2007 presidential election. Born in Senegal and elected to the French National Assembly in 2002, Royal is viewed by many as the lead contender in the upcoming race against Minister of the Interior Nicolas Sarkozy. She has made headlines this year by stating that the male bias in politics prevented her from gaining a swift candidacy, and she's known to focus on family- and socially-oriented issues. Along with German Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel, Royal could become the second woman to currently hold political leadership of a European country, and France's first female president.

### SACHA BARON COHEN

Who would have thought that a Cambridge-educated Jewish comedian with a penchant for crudeness would debut at the top of the box office with his controversial, low-budget film? Not many. But Sacha Baron Cohen (*Da Ali*

*G Show*) surely surprised Hollywood with his breakout phenomenon, *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*. Whether for good or bad, Cohen put Kazakhstan on the map by playing a Kazakh TV reporter on assignment in the United States, afflicted by cultural differences and an unnatural love for Pamela Anderson. Despite facing lawsuits regarding Romanian Gypsies and drunken frat boys, Cohen made waves all over the globe with Borat's unique brand of humour.

### CONDOLEEZE RICE

It has been a whirlwind year for Condoleezza Rice, the US Secretary of State, whom Time Magazine recently dubbed the "President's diplomatic firefighter." Rice racked up a great deal of air miles this year, travelling the globe in an effort to bring peace and stability to international disputes. In addition to putting pressure on the new Iraqi government, she helped negotiate the ceasefire in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah, and was a key player in the UN sanctions against North Korea's nuclear activity. Rice has seen her popularity increase this year, especially in comparison to other high-ranking US government officials including President Bush and the recently resigned Donald Rumsfeld. She has been Secretary of State since January 2005.



# OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • tuesday, 9 january, 2007

## There's *salat* to like about new sitcom

MANY OF US HAVE TO ADMIT THAT, AFTER 9/11, we looked over our shoulders. Many of us suspected Muslim-Canadians of dabbling in terrorist activities. Many of us suspected brown-skinned individuals of harbouring ill feelings towards Westerners. Many of us questioned Islam altogether.

American media stations like CNN and FOX made stretched conjectures after 9/11, flooding television screens with inferences and unnecessary racial profiling. Canadians were a bit better about things. If we had our reservations about the whole situation—a natural enough reaction—between the Middle East and the US, we didn't blow them out of proportion. We're a country that welcomes individuality and ethnicity with open arms, and from my perspective, we handled the situation quite nicely.

Enter the CBC comedy airing today, entitled *Little Mosque on the Prairie*. The show is the work of Zarqa Nawaz, a 39-year-old Regina-based filmmaker who also happens to be a Muslim-Canadian. According to the *Globe and Mail*, international media has been all over the new series, including CNN, BBC, *The New York Times*, the *Houston Chronicle* and countless American blogs.

Nawaz was understandably a bit puzzled by the attention *Little Mosque* is receiving, mainly because she believes people are assuming that the show is going to be highly controversial by nature. To her, the show is just a comedy about Muslims living in a small prairie town, poking fun at rural Canadian life. A show like this is needed to destroy the preconceived notions many—including Canadians—have of Muslims. If we knew how to handle the 9/11 crisis in a respectable manner, then we should know how to handle the misconceptions the media will transpose onto the program. What we have to avoid doing is turning the show into some sort of spectacle, like the international media is currently doing. On the other hand, we just can't take the show for granted; we don't know *everything* about the Muslims that live in our country.

For the most part, Canadians are aware of their country's inherent multiculturalisms, but *Little Mosque* can also be used to further our understanding about Muslims. If we refuse to recognize the show as just another Canadian television program, we're blinding ourselves to how much more we have to learn. If Canadians can laugh at themselves for being hicks who hang out at gas stations, then why can't Muslims laugh at themselves for not being allowed to drink alcohol?

Hopefully *Little Mosque on the Prairie* will present itself as a mirror to the world and show everyone just how ridiculous and naïve they can be about other cultures. Hopefully it turns the tables on Canadians, showing us just how little we know about our ethnically diverse country, all the while poking fun at us via our own wheat-and-grain language.

AMANDA ASH  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

## Strange fruit indeed

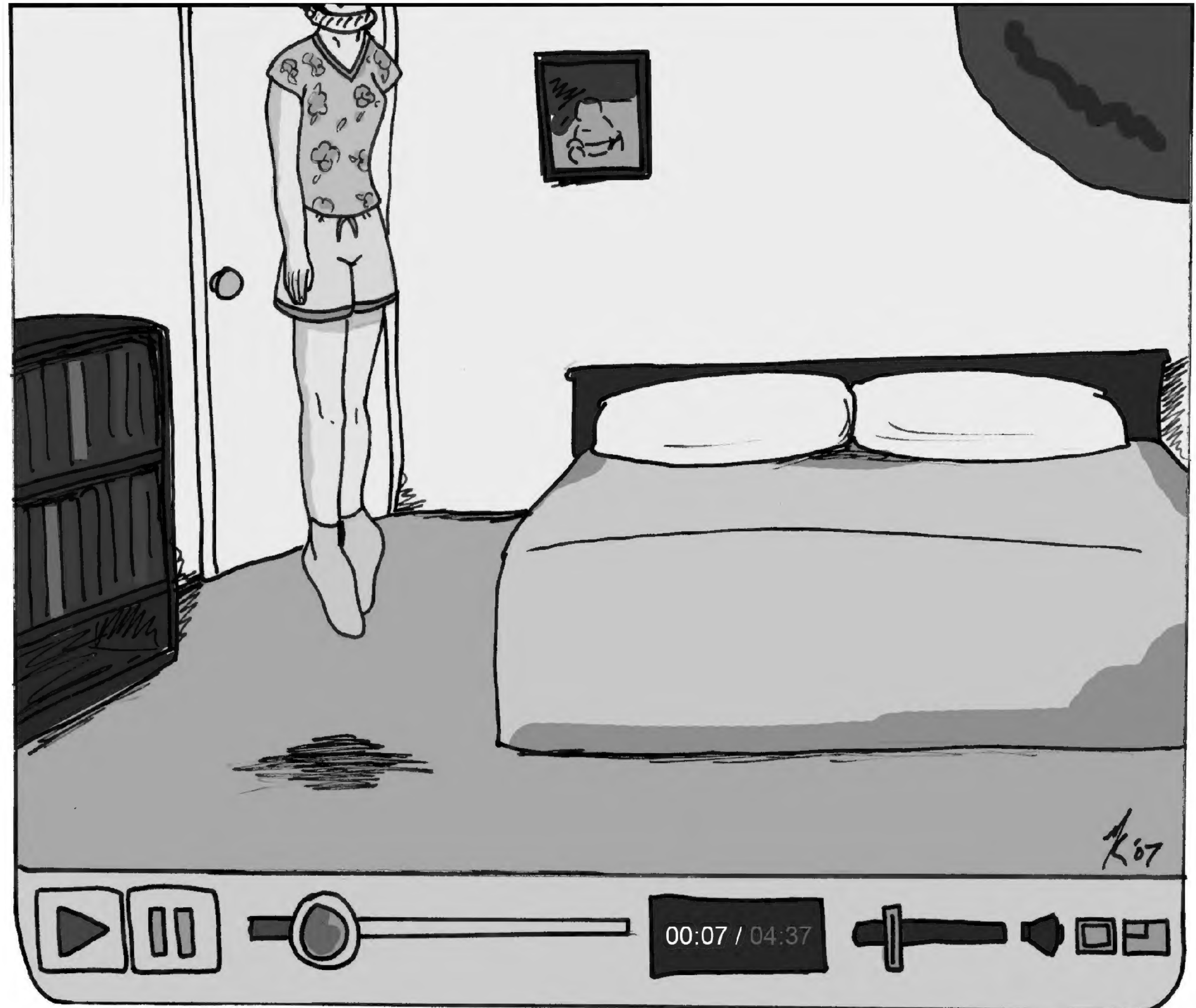
IN ITS RELATIVELY SHORT LIFESPAN, YOUTUBE has already become quite famous for the prevalence of copy-cat videos that spring up almost immediately after the originals. For every famous clip that spreads like wildfire across the Internet, some low-budget lampoon can be found on the site within days.

Normally, such homages are a testament to the currency and impact that YouTube has in today's fast-paced media world of cellphone cameras and citizen journalists. Also testament to this fact is the recent (cellphone) video of Saddam Hussein's hanging—a sight no one could have dreamed of witnessing even five years ago. Mix those two together, however, and you have a disastrous effect. As of press time, no less than three children have hanged themselves after viewing the video. And yes, they died.

Say what you will about natural selection, this clearly all YouTube's fault for corrupting today's youth. And what's wrong with parents these days, when they can't even teach their children not to hang themselves? Back in my day, we would have got beaten the minute we started tying that noose.

ADAM GAUMONT  
Opinion Editor

## lonelygirl15 - im soo sorry<3



MIKE KENDRICK

## LETTERS

### A New Year's resolution for Canadian students

One of the dominant narratives of the 20th century was that of humanity's collective failure to stand up to evil. In the face of global indifference, however, one group of people consistently raised its voice to demand justice: students.

October 1956: Hungarian students march down the streets of Budapest triggering that country's revolt against Soviet rule. 1960s, the American South: white students from the North partake in "Freedom Rides" in an attempt to de-segregate busses in the racist South. Late 1980s, around the world: students help lead an international boycott against apartheid South Africa, crippling its economy and helping bring down the regime.

Fast forward to 2007, Darfur. Its endless graveyards are evidence of crimes against humanity. Burned-out villages are becoming permanent reminders of what has thus far transpired under our watch. The faces of refugees tell stories of unspeakable horror.

But for Darfur, the tides have been turning. World leaders and celebrities alike are speaking out. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called the situation "unacceptable." The UN Human Rights Council held a special session on Darfur. Sudan is starting to feel the pressure. In short, we are moving closer to putting UN peacekeepers on the ground to strengthen civilian protection.

We are at a critical moment. It is time that Canadian students en masse join together to pressure our government to take concrete steps to bring about an end to the killing in Darfur. After four years of inaction, over 200 000 dead and millions displaced, we need to take a stand. Never Again means never again.

Canada can and must take on a leadership role in ending this crisis. On the diplomatic front we can help jump-start a multilateral mission to protect civilians. Our CF-18 aircraft could help enforce a no-fly zone to prevent Sudanese aircraft from bombing villages as they aid the *Janjaweed* militias. Financially, our aid dollars can provide critical support. It's time we come out and commit; we have the capacity to lead.

Acting on that capacity is simple. The prime minister needs to pick up the phone, rally his government and world leaders to join in implementing a strong multinational force on the ground to protect civilians.

To this point he has not been nearly vocal enough—and we are seeing the results of inaction. But politicians do not act without a reason. If the prime minister is going to pick up the phone he needs to see that his constituents demand more—that Canadians demand leadership.

This is where we come in. Our government answers to us. We just need to be heard. Students know how to organize and mobilize; we do it on our campuses every day. We're experts at writing letters, signing petitions and getting our message out there. This instance should be no different. From Victoria to St John's, it's time Canadian students speak as one national voice demanding a real response to the Darfur crisis.

"A New Year's Resolution for Canadian Students" is being published in over two dozen student newspapers in all provinces and both official languages this week.

BEN FINE  
JOSH SCHEINERT  
STAND Canada

### Show us the money, SU

(Re: "Whole tuition story needs to be heard," 30 November). Ms Power, I welcome your opinion into

this debate, however spewing statistics left and right can skew arguments in anyone's favour. I too am able to toss numbers onto the table. As you stated there are fewer professors at the U of A than there were 15 years ago, this is true. However, professors shouldn't be your first and last resource for guidance. TAs, grad teachers, and assistant professors exist, and it should be the students' responsibility to seek out these resources. Since 1990, the University has seen an increase of 5000 academic staff. However, quality of education shouldn't be determined by the number of professors but rather by the caliber of their teaching. Personally, I have never seen a prof turn me away in the name of research.

Although, I have not come here to reiterate points that have been mentioned numerous times in passing, but rather to immerse myself into the shoes of those who lobby for the reduction of tuition. Of course, my stance also comes with a certain sense of criticism and skepticism.

In an article by Chloé Fedio ("SU Who's Who," 7 September), you were quoted [as saying], "The five of us are students' advocates to the University and to the provincial and municipal governments: we're talking to those people on a daily basis and trying to change their decisions to be more student-friendly, and that has an impact on the quality of teaching that you're getting."

As the halfway milestone of your reign draws near, I submit to you the following question as a paying student into the SU membership fee: How has the SU bettered its position on tuition today then four months ago from the "daily" interactions you speak of? It's one thing to solicit and advocate for lower tuition, but it's also another to come to the table with solutions. Similarly to your mandate, I too wish to take the high road by campaigning for lower tuition and more study space. However, if I may be so bold [as] to speak candidly,

where the fuck is this money going to come from?

As the provincial elections draws to an end, political leaders have been forced to keep their ears low to ground and actually listen to what people have to say. As [the] leaders and cunning minds of tomorrow, if all we have to offer is a wall of red paper bricks and a cardboard coffin, then I seriously question the direction of the SU in fulfilling its ambition for the lowest tuition in Canada.

CHRIS TSANG  
Chemical Engineering III

### Tuition debate can do without the gimmicks

In response to the tremendous amount of anti-affordable-tuition letters, let me pose a question. Would lowering the tuition really put the general student body at a disadvantage? It is clear to me that those opposing affordable postsecondary education are oblivious to the larger perspective. While I am a student who chose to attend university and fully expected to pay a large sum to do so, I believe that affordable education not only benefits current students, but prospective students and society as a whole as well.

In case us university intellectuals didn't realize, there are people in our own city who simply cannot afford to obtain a postsecondary education. This, in itself, is a tragedy. Yes, postsecondary education is a privilege, but a privilege that should not be restricted only to the wealthy. It is a privilege that should be restricted to those dedicated to learning, motivated to work hard, and those that truly desire to be there.

Lowering tuition doesn't have to be about ridiculous mock funerals or walls of debt, it can be about helping people realize dreams or gaining opportunities.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 8



# Get ready to Skulk



ROBB  
MYROON

we mustn't get distracted with such details as the third week of January quickly approaches. Now it's time for everyone else to learn what this is all about, and not turn their heads away from what is currently known only as a bizarre group of Listerites running around and acting ridiculous.

This week-long affair combines intense events, outrageous challenges and more heart from every member in Henday than you'll see all year into a magic concoction that would impress even the mad Dr Strangelove. Not only do they show perseverance by "pitching a tent," staying out on the cold ice every night, all night—they show us the importance of every team member.

Now that we've roasted all of our chestnuts over the now-dying open fire, Saint Nick has gone home for another round of elf cutbacks and all of the sugarplums are no longer dancing in our heads, a special time of year is upon us. While for many the upcoming season brings with it late nights and the stresses of school, a select few prepare themselves for a far more important and secret event. If you listen hard enough, you can hear the whisper across the halls: Skulk is coming.

I know what most of you are thinking: Skulk is just some dumb Lister thing—or to be more specific, some dumb Henday thing. But I dare you to read on. I dare you to not turn away before seeing what it truly is. Because Skulk isn't just some game the Listerites play; they don't simply go home afterwards and giggle in a circle about how Patrick looked so foolish playing twister next to Tara. For one week, Skulk is life. Everything else comes secondary, your sole purpose of existence being to further gain points for your floor.

People are no longer known by their names—they're a floor, creating a bonding experience stronger than anything their first-year ECON classes can deliver. Perhaps it tears apart inter-floor relationships, but

Skulk is kicked off with a Sunday volleyball tournament, setting the stage for the rest of the week. Various other contests are held throughout as well. Last year saw the casino night, in which floors began with a certain stake at the beginning of a three-hour session, with the winner finishing with the most money, even if you were in the hole. Pitching a Tent is also a popular event, in which one member from the floor must be on the Lister rink at all times through the night, with intermediate challenges every three hours, such as dodge ball accuracy and a macaroni eating contest. Other events from the previous year include a head-to-head *Dance Dance Revolution* playoff and a 40-person game of Twister.

Skulk may—or may not, I'm not committing to anything—create appalling acts of teamwork around campus, but it will be teamwork nonetheless. Love it or hate it, but Skulk is coming.

## LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

However, it is obvious that some students have a dangerously narrow and ignorant perspective on real issues plaguing modern humanity and have turned a possibly beneficial solution into a frivolous conflict between rich and poor.

JENNIFER FORSYTHE  
Arts I

## Vive la France—et sa système d'éducation

A little perspective on the right to an education issue: I obtained a master's degree from Sorbonne in Paris because in France education is a universal right. On average I paid 500 euros per year compared to the \$10 000 that I will have paid at the end of my two-year after-degree.

Far from complaining, I enjoy being a student at the U of A. Nonetheless I am eternally grateful to France for providing me with an affordable opportunity to earn a degree at one of the world's most illustrious and prestigious universities. Back in Alberta, this left-winger still clings to the ideal that higher education should be open to all regardless of income. If this makes me a "raging socialist" so be it.

CHANTELL ARCAND  
Education III

## Book drive not all it's cracked up to be

It's unfortunate that students are being essentially misled by the posters around campus for the book drive. If you read the small print at the bottom, it says the books are going to Better World Books. A little Googling shows that they donate a portion (and it doesn't say what portion, is it 50 per cent or one per cent?) of their proceeds to their charitable partners,

and that they are a social enterprise. This is code for "For Profit Business." There is nothing wrong with having a business, but it's dishonest to tell students you're donating the books to poor people in Africa when in reality most are sold, and most of the rest recycled. Incidentally, Better World Books doesn't publish the salaries of its founders. So who benefits? Students should ask.

MICHAEL BUMSTEAD  
Engineering III

## Getaway no Gateway

I write this hoping that some hoax has been played on the University of Alberta. I hope that the Gateway edition placed in the business building is a dreadful hoax done by people who lack intelligence [sic] and respectability.

If it is not a hoax than something is wrong in the editorial staff of the Gateway. There is no excuse for the content and language used. If there was a point literate people would know how to be clear, forceful, but not completely offensive. If you want to be funny, be funny.

ALBERT JAMES  
MBA I

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, sent via carrier owl or e-mailed to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.

## LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Campus riot all in good fun

The editorial, "Campus Riot," which appeared in the Gateway on Tuesday, 17 November, calls for comment. Firstly, the tone of the editorial was certainly not in tune with the events of last Friday. An Engineering banner was placed on the Medical building with the intent of starting up once more the friendly rivalry between Engineers and Meds which used to flourish. Their sporting instinct aroused, the Meds accepted the challenge. What followed is known to the student body—an enthusiastic fight, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part in it.

Through its misleading editorial, the Gateway seems bent in creating the erroneous impression that malice and ill-will prevailed. "Enmity" did not foster the outburst—it was spontaneous, and in the cause of good clean fun. The general reading public is quite tolerant of an occasional flare-up in the student ranks, and if the facts were reported accurately, it could have formed no false impressions of life on the campus. Rather, the impression would be false if it were led to believe that the student body were devoid of life and a taste for excitement.

The policy of the Gateway comes to light in its editorials—surely it should lean to the intellectual and more important side of campus life rather than to censor and enforce student discipline.

JE POOLE  
24 November 1936



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# Long-distance plans are costly



ELIZABETH  
MCMILLAN

“Nothing puts a damper on great chemistry like an expiry date. Even the most promising relationships can be thrown into ‘until further notice’ status with the advent of a new semester. The best job in the world can have a severe price. If we are ever in the same place again, is an all too familiar refrain.”

For many university students, high school was the last time they actually dated—in the conventional sense at least. For others, university offered the transformation to adulthood. The people I thought least likely to settle down, let alone outlive their grade eleven reputation, are now wearing engagement rings.

Rings are great, if you can touch the hand that’s wearing it. But as we all grow older and disperse into different parts of the world, the ties that bind us are harder to maintain. At the risk of waxing Carrie Bradshaw-esque, relationships have become dependent on proximity. Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda isn’t just about timing, but location, location, location. Time zones, continents and contracts start to call the shots.

Back in high school things were much easier. Meeting the parents occurred at soccer practice or band rehearsals without any pomp or circumstance. There was a comfort gained in knowing someone’s scholastic, romantic and familial history. And commitment wasn’t really an issue, because school corridors and dances didn’t leave much to the imagination.

Fast-forward to the much-anticipated real world. We’ve been jaded by a staggering divorce rate. We go for investments with a solid return, but

we also like instant gratification. Why read a book when you could watch a movie? Why spend months getting to know someone when you could just pick them up at the bar?

After weeks of exam-induced anxiety, holidays offered an illusion of stability. For those of us who returned to our hometowns, we remembered what it’s like to know a grocer by name, to converse with grandparents and to eat four food groups at once. When we fall back with familiar faces, we begin to imagine whom we will be celebrating with once our university days are behind us. There’s nothing like a mutual past to conjure up images of a shared future.

But there’s a gap, because at the end of the holiday someone packs up their car or steps onto an airplane and months of unsatisfying conversations loom. Before long, here and now is more satisfying than the limits geography allows. The second we leave our parents’ houses we find families of friends and build new relationships. Our social networks aren’t permanent—at least, not in the mortgage payment sort of way. We adapt, make do and take it as it comes.

Nothing puts a damper on great chemistry like an expiry date. Even the most promising relationships can be thrown into “until further notice”

status with the advent of a new semester. The best career move in the world can come with a hefty price. “If we are ever in the same place again,” is an all too familiar refrain.

The success of any relationship depends on a couple’s willingness to make changes—even geographic changes—for each other. Often, we just aren’t secure enough in our shared future to put that on the line. Why should we be? We have our own plans: careers to construct, places to travel, life goals to accomplish. We’re mobile and ready to take life as it comes. Starting over is all part of the plan, and we sure as hell don’t want to wait around for someone else to make life happen.

The flip side is the expectation that eventually we’ll get it all together. Degrees in hand, we’ll find that elusive salaried, suburban self we can’t quite imagine right now. The globe-trotting adventures will subside, and we’ll find a postal code to call our own. Conveniently, that other person will be there too: the timing will finally work.

So until further notice, my permanent address will be Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. No one else is dictating my five-year plan, but at this rate, there will be a former, truncated “love of my life” on whatever continent I end up.

## Guarantors no sure thing

Who’s to say a plumber couldn’t do the same job?



MARIA  
KOTOYCH

If there’s one thing that I hate, it’s filling out forms. Last name first. First name last. Mother’s maiden name. But the fun doesn’t end there on a passport application: another poor, unsuspecting individual gets to take part in the process.

This individual is a guarantor—a person who signs the back of your photo, fills out some information on the form and basically confirms that you are who you say you are. The person must be a Canadian citizen, and have known you for at least two years. Lastly, that person must fall into one of 15 occupational categories, including lawyer, notary public, engineer or the like.

I understand the requirement for being a Canadian citizen and for having known the applicant for two years. But what is the purpose of the occupational requirement for a guarantor? Cannot an administrative assistant, a housewife or a plumber (who meet the other two requirements) verify my identity just as effectively? It’s not exactly rocket science to look at a picture and say, “Yes, that’s Maria.” A friend who has known me since I was three years old and been there through thick and thin: what a perfect candidate to verify any statement I could ever fill out on any form!

However, that person is not necessarily “qualified” to vouch for my non-smiling face in the passport mug shot.

Occupations play a huge role in determining our identity. The list of acceptable professions for guarantors only allows people in “traditional” professions to fulfill this role. This leaves out many respected individuals who don’t fall into these traditional fields. Psychologists. Social workers. Speech therapists. *Journalists*.

We like to think that all members in Canadian society are equal. But every so often, I’ll come across a very clear example that exposes society’s true valuing of different social groups. One such example is the asinine list of acceptable professions for guarantors. An elitist occupational hierarchy, along with a corresponding class structure, still exists in Canada. It’s a vestige of the “old boys’ clubs” of yore. If certain occupations are viewed with more status and prestige than others, does it mean that certain individuals are of greater value simply because of how they choose to earn a living? So much for equality.

The Canadian government not only recognizes the occupational hierarchy, but blatantly approves of those social boundaries by deciding who is “worthy” of being a guarantor. In doing so, the government illuminates its belief about whose opinion really matters. And that makes me wonder: if the government doesn’t consider many people valuable or trustworthy enough to be guarantors, does it view their voices similarly in other contexts?

But what do I really know about all this, I’m just a student journalist.

## THE BURLAP SACK

First, he terrorized Rabbit. Then, in 2004, he was tried for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl. Now he’s back under the gun, this time for assaulting a 14-year-old boy. Despite this, he continues to influence children with his film and literary performances across North America. Clearly, the carrot-eating menace known as Tigger must be stopped.

The seemingly joyous cartoon tiger could be fighting Johnny Law once again after a father accused the costumed cat of punching his son—the act was caught on camera this past Friday at Disney World in Florida.

Amidst a friendly family photo, Tigger, showcasing his heavily documented energetic personality and incredible speed, put the unsuspecting youth in an arm bar, then delivered a haymaker straight to his face. Apparently, unprovoked battery and inappropriate contact with minors is what Tiggers do best. Christopher Robin must have some serious suppressed memories.

The public mustn’t tolerate such behaviour from this rogue, who ironically moonlights as “The Masked Offender.” Now, he’s a repeat child offender. We must act now to ensure that the denizens of Hundred Acre Wood and children everywhere can live in peace once again. He must be put behind bars. But not before we can get that orange-striped, child-smacking asshole into the sack ourselves for a taste of his own tail-bouncing medicine.

JOHN KMECH

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&  
PANDAS**

**U of A Basketball**

**Friday, January 12 vs Winnipeg**

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It's true: January represents a new hope for many students. So if your New Year's resolution is to write Opinion for the *Gateway*, then come up to SUB 3-04 on Thursdays at 4pm.

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